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REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING

IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1872.

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1872.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

SESSION I.

BELFAST, MONDAY, 17TH JUNE, 1872, SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M.

The SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after sermon from Psalm xlvi. 5, first clause—"God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Constitution.

The following is the Roll:— Roll.

THE REV. JAMES D. HOUSTON, A.B., MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Har.*.....	Henry Smyth.....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
Jas. D. Houston, B.A.	John M'Williams* ..	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	Samuel Lyons	Dervock & Ballymoney.
Isaac Thompson, A.B	Andrew M'Ilrath	Drimbolg.
Joseph Hamilton	James J. Fullerton..	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D.....	John Duncan*	Kellswater.
William Toland*	Joseph Henry*	Kilraughts.
.....	Thomas Jack*	Ringrash.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage....	Joseph J. Irvine*....	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas.....	Geo. Graham—*Alternate*, Thos. Henry..	Ballybay.
Hutchinson M'Fadden	.....	Ballylane.
.....	....	Dromore.
.....	.....	Dublin.
George Lillie†	.....	Fairview.
Wm. S. Ferguson* ..	.....	Grange.
.....	.....	Lisdonnan.
Joseph F. Hurst.....	David Cromie.....	Loughbrickland.
Alex. M'L. S. Lyons..	William Niblock	Newry.
Thomas Hart*	Adam M'Neilly*	Rathfriland.

Roll.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick*	W. J. Galway—*Alternate*, Thos. Galway	Bailliesmills.
William Russell.....	W. A. Clugston, M.D.*	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor..	Robt. Gordon—*Alternate*, Thos. Cheyne	Belfast.
.....	Thomas Paterson* ..	Killinchy.
Thomas Houston, D.D.	James Musgrave	Knockbracken.
James R. Moody*....	.....	Larne.
.....	.....	Liverpool.
Robert Allen	John Moore*.....	Newtownards.

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland ...	William O'Neill	Bready.
John W. Mackeown ..	John Elliott	Convoy and Donegal.
James P. Sweeny* ...	John Longwill*.....	Faughan.
Robert Nevin	.....	Londonderry.
.....	Thomas M'Farlane*..	Mulvin.
Thomas Cleland, A.B.	Samuel M'Donnell*..	Newtownlimavady.
R. A. M'Farlane, A.M., B.D.*	William Tait*.....	Stranorlar.

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, of Gleelong, Australia, and the Rev. Dr. Martin, Missionary in Syria, are regarded as members of the Eastern Presbytery.

I. It was intimated, on the part of the Western Presbytery, that the Rev. Robert Adams M'Farlane, A.M., B.D., had been ordained in Stranorlar since last meeting of Synod, and his name was inserted in the Roll.

II. Mr. Russell intimated that the Rev. James Renwick Moody had been ordained in Larne since last meeting. His name was added to the Roll.

III. Mr. Douglas introduced the Rev. Joseph Frazer Hurst, ordained in Loughbrickland—and the Rev. Alexander M'Leod Stavely Lyons, ordained in Newry, since last meeting. Their names were inserted.

IV. Mr. Brown introduced the Rev. Isaac Thompson, A.B., ordained in Drimbolg, as assistant and successor to the Rev. James Smyth; and his name was also added to the Roll.

Dr. Dick chosen Moderator.

V. The Moderator briefly addressed the court, and concluded by moving that the Rev. James Dick, D.D., should take the chair as his successor, he having been nominated to this office by the Commission of Synod at its last meeting. This was seconded by the Rev. G. Douglas, and passed unanimously. Dr. Dick took the chair, and called upon the court to proceed with business.

Hours of Meeting.

VI. The same hours for meeting were adopted as last year, viz.,—from ten in the morning till three in the afternoon, and from seven till ten in the evening.

* Not present when the court was constituted.
† Not present at any of the sessions.

VII. Messrs. Douglas, Brown, J. D. Houston, and Russell, with the Clerk, were appointed a Committee of Bills, with instructions to prepare an order of business. To meet to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 18th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer.

The Rev. R. Allen conducted devotional exercises.

The following members, not present when the court was constituted yesterday evening, now appeared and took seats:—Rev. W. S. Ferguson; Rev. Thomas Hart; Mr. John Duncan, Elder, from Kellswater: Mr. Adam M'Neilly, Elder, from Rathfriland; Mr. Thomas Paterson, Elder, from Killinchy; Mr. Samuel M'Donnell, Elder, from Newtownlimavady; Mr. Joseph James Irvine, Elder, from Ballenon; Mr. John M'Williams, Elder, from Coleraine; Mr. Thomas Jack, Elder, from Ringrash.

VIII. The Committee of Bills submitted an order of business, which, with a little alteration, was approved.

Committee on Union.

IX. The Rev. J. D. Houston submitted a communication which he, as Moderator, had received from Dr. Knox, Convener of a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland on Union with other Churches. Dr. Houston, Rev. J. D. Houston, and the Clerk were appointed a Committee to draw up a reply to this communication.

Report.

At a subsequent Sederunt, this Committee submitted the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted, and the Clerk was instructed to forward an extract of it to the Rev. Dr. Knox:—

"RESOLVED—That this Synod, having received, through the Rev. Dr. Knox, a copy of the Resolution of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, respecting Union among the different Presbyterian Bodies in this country professing adherence to the Westminster Standards, gladly reciprocates with the General Assembly sentiments of Christian respect and good-will; and declares, at the same time, its earnest concern and desire to have the divisions of the Church speedily healed, on the ground of Scriptural truth and duty. We have, moreover, the utmost satisfaction in witnessing the labours of the General Assembly for the advancement of the kingdom of our common Lord and Master at home and abroad, and earnestly desire that the cause of truth and godliness may ever be advanced among them.

"But, inasmuch as the ministers and members of this Church consider it to be their duty still to adhere steadfastly to the Terms of Ministerial and Christian Communion which they have publicly embraced, and to those conditions of Church fellowship and worship

which they have so long maintained, it appears to us unlikely that any conference with the Committee of the General Assembly would, at the present time, issue in a common understanding and course of action, or facilitate this desirable consummation. Therefore, with all respect for the General Assembly, and a deep sense of their Christian kindness and love of union in initiating this proposal, we do not consider it expedient, in present circumstances, to appoint a Committee for the purpose of Conference."

Trustees' Report.

X. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of Synod's Board of Trustees, reported respecting the state of the funds under their guardianship, investments, &c. The report was deemed satisfactory.

The Henry Donation.

It was resolved that the balance in the hands of Mr. S. Clugston, Synod's Treasurer, accruing from the Donation of the late Mr. Henry for the snpport of the Missions of this Church, be paid to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission; and that, hereafter, the Interest on this Donation be divided equally among the Home, Colonial, and Foreign Mission schemes.

Magazine.

XI. The Editor of the Magazine reported that the circulation continued good, but that it was his strong impression it might be largely increased, were some effort put forth with that object. Were the circulation greater the price could be reduced, or the size enlarged in proportion. The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Houston and passed unanimously:—

"Synod having heard the statement of the Editor of the Magazine, that the circulation throughout the Church in this country is not at present so large as might be expected, renew the expression of their fullest confidence in the ability and diligence of the Editor; and do strongly recommend to the Ministers and Elders to use all proper exertions to increase the circulation of the Periodical, and likewise recommend to the ministers and others to render all the assistance in their power by literary contributions."

XII. Mr. Brown, Dr. Houston, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. Allen were appointed a Committee for inspecting Records of Presbyteries—Mr. Brown, Convener. To report on Friday morning.

Next Meeting of Synod.

XIII. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast on the third Monday of June, 1873, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

Days of Thanksgiving and Fasting.

XIV. The Committee on Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation had not the Summary in readiness. They were instructed to have it ready for the Commission at its meeting in November.

The last Thursday of November was appointed, as in former years, to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Thursday of January, 1873, as the day of annual Humiliation.

The Rev. H. M'Fadden and the Rev. Thomas Hart were appointed to prepare a Summary of Causes for next year—Mr. M'Fadden, Convener.

XV. Dr. Houston, Mr. Russell, and Mr. M'Neilly, Elder, were appointed a Committee to consider the propriety of commemorating the tercentenary of the death of the Scottish Reformer, John Knox, and the mode in which such commemoration should be observed—Dr. Houston, Convener. To report at a subsequent sederunt. **Tercentenary of Knox.**

XVI. Mr. Chancellor renewed his motion, originally brought up in 1867, for dispensing with proclamation of banns of marriage. (See Min. VIII of that year.) The motion was seconded by Mr. Savage. **Banns of Marriage.**

Dr. Houston moved, as an amendment, seconded by Dr. Dick—"That this Synod does not consider there is sufficient cause, from any alterations that have been made in the Marriage Laws of this country, to change the long-established usage, sanctioned by the Westminster Directory, in regard to the Public Proclamation of Banns."

Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. M'Fadden, moved, as a second amendment, the appointment of a Committee, to consider the whole matter maturely, and report to Synod at next meeting.

Discussion on these several motions was continued till the hour of adjournment arrived—to be resumed at ten o'clock to-morrow.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 18th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with praise and prayer.

The following members appeared and took seats:—Rev. Thomas Dick; Rev. J. P. Sweeny; Mr. Joseph Henry, Elder, from Kilraughts; Mr. William Tait, Elder, from Stranorlar.

XVII. The Secretary of the Foreign and Jewish Mission read the annual Report. It was moved by the Rev. J. Brown, seconded by the Rev. J. D. Houston, and passed unanimously, that it be adopted and published with the Minutes. The following is the Report:— **Report, For. and Jew.**

Report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission for the Year Ending June 17, 1872.

With feelings of special joy and thanksgiving the Foreign Mission Committee submit to Synod their present Report. The Reformed Presbyterian Church in this country, in conjunction with the sister Church in Scotland, has entered on

Report, For. and Jew. Mission.

a new phase of the missionary undertaking. Since our last meeting of Synod, a missionary, every way well qualified, has been ordained and sent forth to the field that had been previously selected; and, with lively gratitude, we have now to report that what many of our prayerful people so long earnestly desired has, through the good hand of our God upon us, been accomplished—a brother in the ministry, as the agent ond representative of the Covenanting Church in these countries, has gone forth to labour among the heathen.

Instead of presenting, as in former reports, a general view of missionary operations, we deem it proper, on the present occasion, to confine ourselves to a narrative of the steps which were taken for the sending out of our first missionary —then notice the work that is in progress in the mission in Syria—and, in conclusion, advert to what is required on the part of the Church towards the support and extension of the mission.

The Committee appointed by Synod at its last meeting to take charge of the ordination of the missionary, after the completion of his medical studies, lost no time in attending to this important business. At a meeting held in Belfast in September, the time fixed as most suitable for the ordination was the opening of the next Session of the Theological Hall, and it was agreed to ask the co-operation of our Scottish brethren in this matter. As it was seen to be of the utmost importance that a clear and full understanding should exist between us and the sister Church in America with respect to the mode of co-operation of our missionary with theirs in Syria, a sub-committee was appointed to prepare and despatch a letter to the Mission Committee of the American Synod on this subject. The main suggestions contained in this communication were the following:—That our missionary shall act in fraternal conjunction with the missionaries from America, and, in the first instance, be mainly guided by them in respect to the special department of labour that may appear to be suitable for him. That he be required to furnish reports to the two Synods in these countries of his proceedings, and to maintain responsibility to them—these Synods undertaking his support, and to bear the expense of that department of labour in the mission in which he would specially engage. It was, moreover, proposed, that should the mission in Syria be in future extended, our missionary may, by mutual arrangement, be assigned a separate field, to carry forward an independent mission—still acting, however, in fraternal co-operation with the American mis-

Understanding with American Synod.

sionaries. And, in conclusion, the desire was earnestly expressed that, in any arrangement that may be made for the particular labours of our missionary, these, if practicable, shall reach the scattered Jewish people. The reply to this communication from our brethren in America was most cordial. All the proposals which we made were acceded to, and joy was expressed at the prospect of being united with our two Synods in these countries in friendly co-operation in so important an undertaking. Early in the month of October Mr. Martin obtained with credit, in the Queen's University, the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and, at the same time, the degree of Master in Surgery, and became thus fully qualified to act as a medical missionary in whatever place he might afterwards be called to labour. Soon after he visited Scotland, preached and addressed meetings in the different congregations of our brethren, and was present at the special meeting of the Scottish Synod. He was everywhere received with cordial affection, and the liveliest interest was evinced in his designation, and in the mission on which he proposed to enter. The Scottish Synod unanimously resolved to co-operate in carrying forward the mission, and agreed to contribute regularly *the fourth part* of the missionary's salary, and to supply a like proportion of his outfit and passage, and of such other expenditure as may be hereafter required in conducting the mission.

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Dr. Martin graduates M.D. and M.S.

The ordination of the missionary took place in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, College-street South, Belfast, on Tuesday evening, November 14th, and was conducted, according to previous arrangement, by the Eastern Presbytery, in conjunction with the joint committee of the Scottish and Irish Synod, in the presence of a large and deeply-interested congregation. The occasion was one of peculiar solemnity, and was felt to be a time of refreshing from the Lord's presence, and of special practical importance to the ministers, elders, and theological students—the Church's rising ministry—who were present. The impression on the minds of all was that the Lord had heard and graciously answered the prayers of His servants, and that He had laid them under increased and very weighty obligations to pray and labour for the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth.

Ordination.

Dr. Martin remained in this country about five weeks after his ordination, visiting various congregations, and, by preaching and public addresses, endeavouring to interest them in the cause of the Foreign Mission. A passage having been secured for him in the steamship *Memphis*, from Liverpool to Alexandria, a valedictory service was held in the House of

Departure.

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Valedictory Service.

Worship, College-street South, Belfast, on Friday evening, December 15th, in which several ministers, members of the Mission Committee, and others, with Dr. Martin, took part, and which a large number of the members of the Church witnessed with the deepest interest. The same night the missionary sailed for Liverpool, followed by the earnest prayers of many who are affectionately attached to him, and who ardently desired the success of his mission. The Rev. Josias A. Chancellor, who had taken much pains in arranging for his voyage and in providing his outfit, went also to Liverpool, and remained with Dr. Martin till he took his departure.

Voyage to Syria.

On Tuesday, the 19th December, the *Memphis* left Liverpool, and, after a somewhat stormy passage, in *eleven days* reached Alexandria. After a detention of a few days, Dr. Martin proceeded in a Russian steamer, by the way of Beirut, to Latakia, which he reached in four days, on Wednesday evening, January 10th. He was cordially welcomed by the brethren of the mission who were there before him. With lively gratitude he makes mention of the providential care he experienced—of the attention which he received on all hands —and of the comfort which he enjoyed during the whole passage, from his leaving this country till he arrived at the place of his destination.

Causes for Gratitude.

We record with thankfulness the substantial proofs which were given by the members of the Church generally of deep interest in Dr. Martin's welfare and comfort, and in the prosperity of the mission to which he had been dedicated. The special contribution raised for his passage and outfit throughout the congregations under the care of Synod amounted to £111 13s 9½d. When a number of books, and an additional set of surgical instruments which are required shall have been purchased and sent out, there will remain a small balance of the money raised for outfit, which shall be transferred to the general funds of the mission.

Reviewing the whole course in which our fathers' God has so far led His servants in this important affair, we have abundant cause to thank His holy name and to take courage. Our brother, who gave himself to carry into effect the Synod's intentions respecting a Foreign Mission, has been favoured in the acquisition of superior qualifications for his work. We have had cheering proof of the Church's prayerful interest in the mission. We have been brought into closer bonds of attachment to dear brethren in Scotland and America, by engaging with them in the prosecution of an arduous and most important undertaking; and we have enjoyed many tokens of Divine favour in the steps thus far taken.

Because of these things, we are constrained to humble and grateful praise, as we should be animated to prosecute the undertaking to which we have pledged ourselves with prayerful zeal and persevering diligence. Report, For. and Jew. Mission.

The work, which has been so laboriously and efficiently carried on by Messrs. Beattie and Metheny, and by Miss Crawford, the excellent female teacher, has recently had given to it, as fellow-labourers, Rev. Mr. Galbraith and his wife, and Miss Dodds, from America, rica, and our brother, Dr. Martin. Though some time must necessarily elapse before these latter shall have acquired such a knowledge of the native language and of the condition and habits of the people as shall fit them to enter upon direct missionary labours, yet their fellowship with brethren who have experience of the work and its difficulties is, meanwhile, of the utmost importance, and there is the cheering prospect of future access to the people to whom they are sent, and of a measure of success in their labours. A great change is manifestly passing over the native population of different classes—Christian, Mohammedan, and heathen, in Syria. The desire for education is everywhere increasing—and especially for the education of females, so long neglected - both among those who resort to the common schools and those who are sent to the higher seminaries. The best aspect of this movement is that, to a large extent, those who promote the education of the natives appear to be thoroughly convinced of the importance of establishing it on a Scriptural basis, while no objection is anywhere offered by parents against their children receiving instructions from the Word of God. A spirit of inquiry after evangelical Protestantism is likewise evidenced in various places, while the circulation of the Scriptures constantly increases, and among the inquirers and readers of the Word of God are found some of the followers of the false prophet. State and Prospects of Mission. Favourable Change of the native mind.

The present state of the mission to which our brethren are devoted furnishes cause of devout thanksgiving and hopeful encouragement On the occasion of the celebration of the Lord's Supper at Latakia on Sabbath, the 28th of April last, *forty-six* persons partook of the sacred ordinance, of whom *thirty-eight* had been gathered from the native population, and several of these, being Fellahin, were baptized shortly before. When it is considered that by far the largest number of these are in early youth, and a majority of them females, and that they have had to encounter no ordinary difficulties and opposition from the ignorance, cupidity, and immorality of their parents, it is matter of rejoicing that they Results.

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have been led to forget their fathers' house and their own people, and to join themselves to the Lord. They are certainly entitled to a special interest in the prayers of the Church, that they may be enabled to adorn the profession they have made, and be instrumental in bringing others to embrace the truth as it is in Jesus.

Increased Attendance at Worship.

The audiences attending the Sabbath services at Latakia have, of late, largely increased. This increase has taken place in a remarkable way.

Earthquakes.

Shocks of the same wave of earthquake which had caused so great destruction of property and life at Antioch and Aleppo were felt at Latakia during the month of April, and, on the night of Sabbath, the 28th, the day of the Communion, a shock so severe was felt in the town that the missionaries and their families were obliged to remove from the mission buildings to the garden, where, under the shelter of a large tent, they have remained for a number of weeks. Almost all the inhabitants of Latakia also fled from their houses, and, as several shocks have been felt since, they have nearly all remained in tents in gardens and fields, day and night. The public religious services of the mission were held on the following Sabbath under a tree beside the mission buildings, and, from the tents around, many persons, including some of the *elite* of the town, and some who had formerly shown the utmost hostility to the mission, came forward, and attended with marked solemnity to the services. It is mentioned that in the audience were the mother, brother, and brother's wife of *Selim Saleh*, a convert of the mission, and now a teacher in a village school in connexion with it. The brother used to beat him because of his frequenting the mission, and, in other ways, showed his enmity against the cause. The English Vice-Consul, a member of the Greek Church, was also present. Mr. Beattie preached, on the occasion, a powerful discourse in Arabic, from Isaiah xxvi. 20. The attendance was 90, and at the fellowship-meeting, held in the afternoon, over 80 were present. On the following Sabbath the attendance on the mission services was still larger, about 140 being present. Mr. Beattie preached from Matt. xxi. 42. Among the hearers were a number of persons whom the missionaries would have least of all expected to have united with them in public worship. The English Vice-Consul again, with his wife, who is said to be a bigoted Greek, besides the uncles, aunts, and cousins of the Consul, a son of one of the Greek priests of the town, and a son of the secretary of the bishop of the district, with many others of considerable rank and influence in society, attended. Dr. Martin adds—"In these days, when the earth is shaking, and threatens to over

whelm all in one grave, the people seem to forget their prejudices, Yet, what leads them to come to us in such numbers? True, they have no service in their own consecrated places. There is surely much gained when the chiefs of the people have made a beginning of hearing the Word preached, and so have set an example to others. It is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes."

Schools.

The boarding-schools, both at *Latakia* and *B'hamra*, in the mountains, are attended by about 50 Fellahin pupils, who are taught and supported at the mission expense; while 30 or more Ansariyeh children are taught in two other village schools, at no other expense to the mission than the furnishing of a teacher. There are in various districts of the Fellahin encouraging openings inviting to evangelistic effort, and several of the young men who are converts of the mission are at present under special training with a view to filling them. The latest accounts from our brethren in Syria mention that the class conducted for this purpose is attended by *four* promising young men—three of them Ansariyeh, and one a convert to Protestantism from the Greek Church. Two of these have already entered on their important labours, by conducting religious services and exhorting their countrymen from the Word, in one of the native villages on the Sabbath. As it is now generally admitted that a principal instrumentality for the world's conversion is that of evangelists and ministers raised from among the people to whom the Gospel is sent, and a principal end of missionary effort is to prepare such an agency, this department of the work of the Syrian Mission should excite a deep interest throughout the Church, and should enlist the special prayers of all who seek the diffusion of the Gospel and the gathering of the heathen to Christ.

Training of Native Evangelists.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, ought we not—ministers, elders, and people—from a sense of the Lord's manifold goodness, to be stirred up, and to labour to excite others to take a constant and prayerful interest in this mission? What has been so auspiciously begun requires to be carried forward. If the Lord will bless and prosper the labours of His servants, much larger funds will be required for sustaining and extending the mission than any which have yet been supplied. Schools conducted on thorough Scriptural principles require to be set up in many places, and teachers prepared for the service. Some definite allotment out of our funds for this purpose may have shortly to be made. Native evangelists are to be trained and supported. Additional missionaries from these countries may be demanded, when it shall please the Head of the Church, in whose name and for whose glory we have

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undertaken this work, to give it advancement and success. Instead of shrinking from the service because of increased demands that may be made upon the Church's resources in money or men, we should the rather regard it as a special privilege and honour to be called, in the way of self-denial and enlarged effort, to co-operate with those who are labouring to gather souls to Christ, and to establish His kingdom in the earth. Above all, let us by cordial sympathy in the labours and trials of our brethren engaged in this mission, and by fervent abounding prayer, hold up their hands. Let us unite with them in continually seeking that the good seed sown may yield a plentiful harvest—that so the Saviour's name may be "great among the Gentiles," and that "incense and a pure offering may be offered to Him from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same."

The following Resolution, proposed by Dr. Houston, was also unanimously adopted, and ordered to be engrossed in the Minutes:—

Resolution on For. Mission.

"Resolved—That this Synod having heard with much interest the Report of the Foreign Mission Committee, in relation to the ordination, passage, and work in Syria, of their first Missionary, the Rev. Dr. Martin, hereby express devout thanksgiving to God for all the favour which He has shown to this Church in entering upon this important undertaking, and renew their pledge to their esteemed Missionary, of all affectionate sympathy and cordial support. We express, moreover, our gratitude to the Church's glorious Head for the measure of success which has followed the labours of our brethren, the Missionaries in Syria, and would engage ourselves, and exhort and urge the members of the Church, by earnest prayer and by drawing forth and applying pecuniary resources, to the support and extension of this Mission."

At the request of the court, the Moderator engaged specially in praise and prayer, as an expression of thanksgiving for the happy circumstances amid which, in the good providence of God, the work of a Foreign Mission had been inaugurated.

Scotch Deputation.

XVIII. A commission from the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland to the Rev. John M'Donald, A.M., the Rev. James Dick, A.M., and Mr. Thomas Kirkwood, Elder, as a deputation to the present meeting was presented and read. Mr. Dick was now present, and took his seat in court as a consultative member.

Report on Temperance.

XIX. Mr. Chancellor read the annual Report on Temperance. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Douglas, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

Report on Temperance—June, 1872.

Progress.

The progress of the Temperance cause during the past twelve months has not been altogether satisfactory. The Government Licensing Bill of last year, which, with all its

Temperance Report.

defects, promised valuable results to the country, on account of the pressure of public business, and the pressure at the same time of the Publicans, had to be withdrawn. Its introduction was a public and authoritative acknowledgment of the vast and intolerable evils that spring immediately out of the liquor traffic, and of a growing and resistless sentiment on the part of the people that these evils must, in some way or other, be at once grappled with and reduced. Its withdrawal was an ignoble concession to the immense influence and power that the capitalists of the spirit trade can muster in its defence.

Call to the conflict.

The immediate effect of this retrograde movement has been to throw the question in its entirety back upon the country, and to summon the forces on both sides to a more determined and conclusive conflict than before. The stage is being rapidly cleared; and the opposing parties, deeply conscious of the tremendous interests that are at stake, are girding themselves for the approaching struggle. It is simply impossible for any part of the Church of Christ to remain neutral or uninterested at such a crisis of the nation's history. All that is precious to humanity, for time and for eternity, all that is sacred in patriotism, whatever is most binding in our holy religion and most glorifying to God in the highest, is at present staked upon the issue of the strife. It behoves every member of the Covenanting Church, from the youngest to the oldest, to comprehend the sacredness and the imperative urgency of the cause that has now to be decided. Have we not already pledged ourselves before God and the nation, with hands lifted up in solemn covenant—"to abstain from known vice, and all appearance of evil—to do good unto all men as we have opportunity—and to pray and labour, according to our power, that whatever is contrary to sound doctrine and the power of godliness may be removed, that thereby a free course may be opened up for the diffusion of the Gospel throughout the nations." And, in making this engagement have we not solemnly declared "that we are actuated by no sinister, selfish, or carnal motives, but simply by the desire, in our several places, of promoting the glory of God and the best interests, for time and eternity, of immortal souls."

England's Response.

The friends of Temperance Reform in England, fully alive to the surpassing interest and importance of this great question, undiscouraged by their past defeats and disappointments, and undeterred by the storm of relentless opposition that is rapidly gathering against them from every quarter, have recently committed themselves more heartily and determinately to whatever effort and sacrifice may be demanded to its successful prosecution. At the last annual meeting of the

Temperance Report.

United Kingdom Alliance it was resolved to raise a guarantee fund of £100,000, with which to strengthen and renew the conflict. No sooner was this proposal made than it was well-nigh realised. "The subscription list," says the *Times*, "is astounding. It is headed by three offerings of £5,000 each, and the contributions of £1,000 and upwards are just five times as many." In two months three-fourths of the entire amount had been subscribed. Similar funds have been established, of course on a much smaller scale, in Scotland and Ireland. This is the best evidence that could be given of how deeply the hearts and consciences of the social and Christian reformers of the country are concerned in the right and speedy settlement of this question; and it affords the amplest security to all waverers that, however prolonged and embittered may be the conflict, it will never be allowed to slacken for want of the sinews of war. A visitor from beyond the Atlantic has borne the following testimony on the character and prospects of this agitation to his countrymen on his return:—"As I met many people of all ranks, in different occupations, I think I had some opportunity of learning the feeling of the people and the progress of the movement. Naturally I met not a few of the hardest workers for Temperance and the Permissive Bill. I was amazed to find such deep, earnest enthusiasm—such consecration and high hope. Men and women more loyal to their convictions, more determined to work and spend for their cause, I believe do not live. The growing evils of intemperance have profoundly moved them, and reform is urged with an ardour and wisdom that must eventually lead to the overthrow of the liquor interest. Indeed the Alliance will succeed. Such men and women praying, preaching, toiling for the removal of the great curse, with God's aid, must succeed. Heaven hasten the day!"

Publicans organizing in defence.

At the same time it must be admitted that the enemy has been thoroughly roused, and is rapidly marshalling to the fray. No small stir has arisen in almost every town in the Empire concerning this agitation; for certain millionaire brewers and distillers, whose liquors bring no small gain unto the publicans, have called them together with the workmen of like occupation, and said: Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover, ye see and hear that not in London alone, but throughout the whole land, these Temperance agitators have persuaded and turned away much people from the public-houses, saying they be no drinks, but poisons, which be made by brewing and by distillation. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought, but also that the 150,000 temples of the great god Bacchus should

be despised, and the magnificence of his gin palaces should be destroyed, whom all Britain and the world wo shippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were naturally full of wrath, and cried out saying, Great is Bacchus among the Britons. Are not £117,000,000 invested in the spirit trade of these countries, £26,000,000 of which flow into the public treasury? And, therefore, "we, the members of the wine and spirit trade in Belfast,"—and in the other cities throughout the kingdom, which have been equally filled with confusion by this agitation—"protest against the enactment of any measure unduly restricting the legitimate carrying on of our business, and repel with indignation the unjustifiable aspersions of our opponents on our character of traders." Temperance Report.

For the first time in the history of Temperance in these countries, the publicans as a body have been made to feel and acknowledge that their traffic is now seriously endangered. They do not attempt to deny the frightful and widespreading calamities that everywhere follow, and do immediately flow from, the sale of intoxicating drinks. They do not even deny that the drinks, which they claim the right of continuing to supply in unlimited quantities, have the power and distinguishing property of creating an almost irrestrainable appetite for their habitual use, and thus of directly producing all the abuses that invariably cluster and flourish around this traffic. A parliamentary return on drunkenness, just issued, shows that in the year ending on the 1st of July, 1871, there were in the United Kingdom 238,274 convictions under heading of "drunk" or "drunk and disorderly;" of these 130,785 were in England, 15,194 in Scotland, and 92,295 in Ireland. Wherever the liquor is used these results are found to follow, and the name of Great Britain is becoming more closely associated with strong drink and its hateful ravages than with any of its noble missionary or commercial enterprizes, in almost every part of the heathen world. Babu Sasipada Banerjee, in a recent address on "The wants of India," lays the vice of intemperance exclusively at the door of Great Britain. "The Hindoos," he said, "were a temperate people. Their scriptures strictly prohibited the use of any intoxicating liquors whatever. With the spread of English education old ideas were dying out, and young men, trying to imitate English people, imitated their vices. Government had also done something which, as a Christian Government, they should not have done, having brought a temptation before the poor and innocent Hindoos. Drink and liquor shops had been opened in every town and village. It had been said by many that the English people took with them everywhere this horrid Character of the Traffic.

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custom of drinking, and thus they spread vice, desolation, and death wherever they went." And in a late number of the *Glasgow Herald*, announcing the departure of a steamer for Old Calabar, on the coast of Africa, with a supply of brandies and wines from Scotland for the great annual Egbo festival, observes—"The grand Egbo Carnival is remarkable chiefly for drunkenness, bloodshed, and slaughter, costing the lives of thousands, mostly women and children, every year, and paralyzing the efforts of benevolent and missionary societies for the elevation of the native Africans."

Resistance demanded.

In the face of all these frightful and invariable results of the liquor trade, it is astounding to us that the public generally, and even the publicans, do not perceive that this is an exceptional traffic that demands to be dealt with in an exceptional manner. While other trades minister out of the rich storehouses of God's good and wholesome creatures to the varied necessities and comforts, the health and the happiness of men, this trade produces everywhere stupefaction and disease, blasphemy and violence, pauperism and death. Seeing the robust health and manly vigour of the community stricken as with a deadly malady, its morals corrupted and debased, its material comforts and resources wantonly wasted and destroyed, and its peace, safety, prosperity, and very life continually threatened and endangered, is it not the highest dictate of social freedom, of personal safety, and of public law to say that the cause of all this must be effectually removed? If such evils as these were found to arise from any other trade, would it not be arrested and abolished at once? Had liquor selling, with all its fearful and inevitable surroundings of ruin, wretchedness, and death, been but recently imported into these lands, would it have produced less horror and dismay, less indignation and resistance than if a foreign invader had landed his legions upon our shores, and led them in bloody triumph through the length and breadth of the land? Such a feeling of instinctive and indignant resistance to a system, which is every year as destructive and much more disgraceful than a foreign invasion, would be but the natural and necessary uprising of the spirit of the nation for its own deliverance from an unparalleled immorality and curse. Long familiarity with all the varied and hopeless forms of evil generated by this traffic, which should have intensified beyond all endurance our abhorrence of the trade, has only seared and debased the national conscience into a state of the most amazing stupefaction. If, at length, it is demanded in the name of God and the people, for the sake of religion and of public safety, that some such legal restrictions be thrown about this traffic as shall lessen its

ravages, and lead eventually to its extermination, or that the people be vested with the power of constitutionally repelling its pestilential breathings and deadly advances from their own doors, we are met with the frenzied cry of fanaticism, of tyranny, of injustice, and of spoliation, and the sacred name of liberty is invoked for the protection of a traffic that is inflicting openly upon the nation the curse and shame of slavery in the most ruinous and revolting forms in which it has ever been known to exist. Shall the liberty of the publican to make money by producing suffering and serfdom, beggary, broken-heartedness, and death dominate all the other precious liberties we enjoy in this land of blood-bought and enlightened freedom? Must the right of investing capital in, and extracting profits out of a trade upon the vices, the impoverishment and the ruin of men trample underfoot superior and inalienable right of every community to protect itself from injury—to repel danger—to suppress immorality, and to secure to every child, and to every weakling in its midst immunity from seductions that are known to be fraught with deadly results? Temperance Report.

It need no longer astonish us to find that the legislation which is attempted on this subject, whether by the Government or by most private parties, is miserably and most culpably inadequate to grapple with the evil of intemperance as it at present exists. There are seven Bills before Parliament and the country just now purporting to remedy this universally-deplored and admitted evil; none of them, however, is at all likely to become law unless the Government measure, which has already passed the House of Lords. Like all previous Government Bills, this one is essentially defective in right principle, and in even an attempt to deal honestly and adequately with the nature and extent of the evil against which it is directed. Therefore, however soon it may be passed, and whatever may be its amendments, it cannot be considered as anything like a satisfactory or permanent settlement of this question. At best it is but a feeble step of advancement towards the end, which we must ever keep steadily in view, namely, the complete deliverance of our country from the crime and curse of intemperance. Two of these Bills, introduced by private parties, have for their object the closing of public-houses on the Lord's Day. One of these is an English Bill. The other relates to Ireland, having been introduced by Sir Dominic Corrigan, the Roman Catholic member for Dublin. This Bill is everything that could be desired for the preservation of the Lord's Day from such desecration as drinking is certain to produce. The prelates and influential members of the Church of Rome have hon- Legislation at fault.

Temperance Report.

ourably taken the lead of the several Protestant communities in the promotion of this most important and Scriptural reform. Several of the bishops, by the force of a strong ecclesiastical authority alone, have succeeded in their own dioceses in stopping the traffic which the law of the land has licensed to be carried on, on the Lord's Day. One of them says—"The closing of public-houses on Sunday in this diocese dates from June, 1857. It has been since that time faithfully observed, and the scenes of drunkenness and disorder, which were in former times but too frequent, have altogether disappeared." This Bill has been urged upon Government by representatives of almost every Church and political party in Ireland, and is sustained by an overwhelming preponderance of the enlightened opinion of the country. Yet, we grieve to say, the representative of the Government declared that he was strongly opposed to the Sunday closing, Sunday being (as he terms it) the poor man's only holiday, and it would be a serious evil to interfere with his pleasures on that day. From this flippant and offensive utterance may be learned how much Christian legislation is likely to emanate from the present Government on this subject.

The action of the Church.

The Commission of Synod, which met in March last, in order to strengthen the hands of Sir Dominic Corrigan and others in introducing the Bill for the closing of public-houses on the whole of the Lord's Day, adopted a Resolution, and sent it to several members of Parliament, heartily approving of and commending this measure. We propose that Synod should now renew this declaration, and give to it all the weight and publicity in its power. Moreover, as Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill—which is the only Bill before the country that contains a definite principle in any sort adequate to the emergency, and which would gradually, but surely, as public morality and enlightenment advance, rid the country, in a peaceful and constitutional manner, of this tremendous evil—is soon to be brought again before the House of Commons, it is proposed that we renew the utterances of former years on its behalf. It is also suggested that this Synod should repeat its former injunctions to ministers and sessions to give increased and earnest attention to every phase and bearing of this absorbing question, in its relations both to the members of the Church and to the community at large, and to embrace every opportunity of lending their countenance and efficient assistance to its successful promotion. Whilst warning our members, as before, against being led into connection with Good Templarism or any other secret form of association, whatever may be its object, we would strongly urge them to band themselves together in Congre-

gational Associations and Bands of Hope, and unhesitatingly to pledge themselves in the most public manner to the maintenance and advancement of Scriptural temperance. May we not apply to this cause, at the present time, the emphatic and decisive words of Christ—"He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." We would have Synod also to require all ministers to preach on this subject on the third Sabbath of December, and Presbyteries to make special inquiries concerning it at their following meeting, and report to Synod. A copy of the full Report of the Convocation of Canterbury on Intemperance is in readiness, together with a parcel of tracts for distribution, to be handed to each minister. As all our available funds are now exhausted, a collection, somewhat more liberal and general than heretofore, would be required to carry on this work with satisfaction and success. Temperance Report.

The following series of resolutions, proposed by Dr. Houston, was also adopted, *nem. con.*:— Resolutions on Temperance.

"1. This Synod, being fully aware of the multiplied and aggravated sins that are connected with the Liquor Traffic and Drinking Customs of these countries, offer their emphatic and most earnest warning to all the office-bearers and members of the Church against any participation in this great iniquity.

"2. They also utter their public testimony against the action of the British Government in the measures that they have enacted, or propose to enact, for Licensing and sustaining the Drink Traffic—and in drawing a large part of the national revenue from that which confessedly generates vice, pauperism, and lunacy, entails ruin upon so many classes of the community, and seriously threatens the commerce and welfare of the nation. They regard, too, as especially aggravated, the sin of the Legislature in authorizing the sale of Intoxicating Liquor on the Lord's Day.

"3. At the present crisis of the great Temperance Reform, when those who are engaged in the manufacture and sale of Intoxicating Liquor are mustering all their strength, and by the most unscrupulous means are seeking to perpetuate and extend the evils of this nefarious system, this Synod earnestly exhorts the office-bearers and people connected with the Church to give all the support in their power to such important measures as that for Sabbath-closing, and the Permissive Bill of Sir Wilfred Lawson, and likewise to give pecuniary aid and all other proper encouragement to those noble philanthropists who are engaged in the arduous conflict with Intemperance."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 19th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. H. M'Fadden conducting devotional exercises.

The following members appeared and took seats:—Rev. J. R. Moody; Rev. W. Toland; Mr. John Moore, Elder from

Newtownards; Mr. Thomas M'Farlane, Elder from Mulvin.

Proclamation of Banns.

XX. The subject of Proclamation of Banns of Marriage was resumed. The second amendment was withdrawn. Mr. Chancellor was permitted to make some slight alteration on his motion, and the discussion was continued on this and the first amendment. The amendment, being first put to the vote, was negatived by a majority of *twenty-nine* to *sixteen*. The motion was then declared carried, without the form of a second vote.

The following ministers and elders dissented, for reasons to be assigned afterwards, and required their dissent to be recorded, viz.—*Ministers*—James Dick, D.D., Moderator, Thomas Houston, D.D., J. W. Mackeown, J. P. Sweeney, A.M., John Hart: *Elders*—John Elliott, Adam M'Neilly, John Duncan, John Longwill, Henry Smyth, Thomas Patterson, John M'Williams.

The following is the motion as finally passed:—

The Motion on Banns as carried.

"That, inasmuch as it can be the duty of the Church to make proclamation of designs of marriage in the public congregation on the Lord's Day, only when no other adequate provision has been made for the prevention of clandestine and irregular marriages; and, inasmuch as by the Act of 1863, 'To amend the Law relating to Marriages in Ireland,' in accordance with which all marriages are now solemnized by us, the most ample and effectual means have been provided to secure the necessary amount of publicity, and to prevent the occurrence of irregular marriages—it is not deemed any longer necessary, in these circumstances, to require the publication of banns previous to the marriage of members of this Church. But, inasmuch as marriage is an ordinance of Divine appointment, affecting the highest interests both of individuals and of the community, and therefore should be observed with all due solemnity and deliberation, the members of the Church are to be directed to seek the celebration of marriage in their own places of worship, and in accordance with the usages of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, having obtained a Certificate from the Registrar after a notice of twenty-one days, as Licences have not been approved of by this Church. And ministers are particularly enjoined, as soon as they shall receive the duplicate notice transmitted by the Registrar, to give such publicity to the intimations contained therein, by letter or otherwise, as the circumstances of each particular case may demand."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 19th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with praise and prayer.

XXI. The Rev. John M'Donald, A.M., of the Deputation from the Scottish Synod, was present and took his seat in court. The Rev. James Kerr, of Greenock, and Mr. John M'Donald, Elder, from Glasgow, being present, were cordially invited to sit and deliberate.

XXII. The Secretary of the Colonial Mission, Rev. James Brown, read the annual Report. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Russell, and passed unanimously. The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL MISSION FOR 1872.

Report of Col. Mission.

The example of our blessed Lord while He sojourned on earth, and also of His apostles, teaches us that our first care as a Church should be for the members of the Church who are "scattered abroad," and, having been instrumental in offering to them the means of grace, we should turn our efforts to the heathen world. He and His apostles "began at Jerusalem," that is, with the covenant people of God, and not until the message of salvation was disregarded by them did they "turn to the Gentiles." The Epistles of Paul, which are expressly written to those who have already known the true God, and professed their faith in Him, and which manifest such an intense desire to build them up in the most holy faith, teaches us the same duty. We rejoice in the recent efforts of our Church to establish an agency in the broad field of heathenism, and our mission schemes were incomplete so long as this was wanting; but, still, our few scattered members throughout various distant countries have a primary claim upon us for the means of grace. Following this example, our Colonial Mission had its origin, and receives from us continued attention and support. We regret our inability to maintain an agency co-extensive with the calls made upon us, and, if our Church at home possessed more of the spirit of Christian brotherhood—more of the spirit of self-denial required by the Master—our mission organizations would be much more extensive.

We learn from every report borne to us from the British Colonies and Australia of members of the Church in those lands wandering as sheep without a shepherd, many of them sincerely attached to the cause espoused in the native land, and willing to make liberal contributions to missionaries who might be sent forth by our Church, but little or no response is made by us

Communications from Missionaries.

During the year that is past we have not had much communication with our missionaries, but what we have had repeats very much the same tidings concerning their position and prospects that we have had in recent reports. It is cause of sincere gratitude to God that they have all been spared in the enjoyment of health and strength, and are prosecuting their work with their usual diligence and devotedness. The letter which appeared in the May Number of the *Covenanter*, from our esteemed father, the Rev. W. Sommerville, may be taken as the substance of what each of

Report of Col. Mission.

our brethren writes as to the state of the country in the British Colonies, and the present condition and prospects of our mission there. This letter, having been read by our ministers and members extensively, it is not necessary for us to refer particularly in this report to the interesting matter contained in it. We hope it is one of many such communications we shall receive for insertion in the Magazine, as we have no doubt but by this means a greater interest and sympathy with the mission would be created. There are two points in that letter to which we would here specially advert as connected chiefly with the interests of the mission. The one is the withdrawal of the Rev. R. M'G. Sommerville from the pastoral oversight of the congregation of Horton,

Horton.

upon his appointment to the office of Inspector of Schools. We cannot but express our regret that this little congregation should lose part of the services of such an efficient minister, but we are glad to know that his people still enjoy the benefit of his Sabbath ministrations, and that the senior pastor has undertaken the oversight of the people, and we are sure, notwithstanding the increased toil and labour that this will cause, the self-denied and devoted spirit of our senior missionary will faithfully watch the interests of our cause in that place as well as in his own immediate field in Cornwallis. We would wish to call attention to the

Wolfville.

debt resting upon the Church at Wolfville, erected chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr. Sommerville, junior. It appears that this house is so heavily under debt that, if some help be not speedily forthcoming, it will have to be sold. It will be a great pity if the footing gained in Wolfville, where the interests of our cause appear hopeful, should be lost. Might there not be an effort made by some public-spirited members of our Church, or by our congregations as a whole, to assist our brethren in this difficulty? The other point in Mr. Sommerville's letter to which we would refer is the call for at least *one additional labourer immediately*. Both Mr. Sommerville and Mr. Stavely refer in their letters principally to two most promising stations in New Bruns-

Stations.

wick, viz., Queensville and Littleton, the former within the colony of New Brunswick, the latter beyond the boundary line which separates New Brunswick from the state of Maine. There is at each of these places a comfortable house of worship. No other Presbyterian congregation of any name is in the immediate neighborhood of either. Large attendances wait upon the dispensation of ordinances when our missionaries are able to visit them. But they find it impossible to give that amount of attention and service which these stations desire and deserve, and a most earnest appeal is sent

over to us to endeavour at once to send forth an additional missionary, who might occupy these promising stations. Mr. Stavely writes concerning them:—"These places, if frequently supplied with preaching, could do much towards the support of a young man, and he might probably have, with a little help from home in the meantime, quite as much to live upon as any of your present missionaries. . . . . A young man of popular talents, desirous of making himself useful and agreeable as a fellow-labourer with us, would, I have no doubt, receive much encouragement." And both Mr. Sommerville and Mr. Stavely state, if something be not done quickly, "both these stations will have to be thrown away." Might we again appeal, first, to the members of our Church for an increase in their annual offerings to this mission, so as to encourage us to make an addition to our staff, and also appeal to the licentiates and students of our Church to consider the importance of this field, and say to us "Here am I, send me?" It is very discouraging to our missionaries, who have laboured so faithfully and devotedly to plant our Covenanted standard in that distant land—some of them growing old and infirm in the service—that their oft-repeated calls for additional labourers have been so long unanswered. We are confident that, if a suitable minister could be found to offer himself for this promising field, the Church would not let the treasury of this mission fail of supply; and faithful efforts, by the blessing of God, would be crowned with perhaps greater success than in any of our home stations. It would rejoice the heart of all concerned if some of our promising young men who have been "lent to the Lord" would, like our brethren who have gone before, show themselves ready to leave father and mother, and home and friends, enrol with our Colonial brethren, and thus supply a long-felt want. Mr. Stavely says further, on this matter, in a recent letter:—"We ask in faith for more labourers. Some even of our best-informed and most liberal people may say—indeed we have heard the question—'Are there not as many missionaries as can be supported?' A monosyllable might, in a worldly point of view, give a correct answer to the enquiry. But, whatever that answer may and ought to be, it is generally understood amongst the brethren that there are several places in this and the sister province which do not and cannot, with existing engagements, receive from us that attention which they desire and deserve—places where there are members of our own communion living as sheep without a shepherd, and where there are others in darkness and error, yet seeking to be told the way of salvation. On behalf of such, and that they and their children may inherit the blessing

Need for additional Labourers

Report of Col. Mission.

when we are gone to give an account of our stewardship, it is an imperative duty, and no selfish motive will prevent us from performing the duty, to solicit the Church at home to stretch forth a helping-hand. If such an appeal, now once more repeated, continues to be disregarded—if there is none of our young men prepared to say "Here am I, send me"—we must, with submission, be satisfied with some clusters of the first ripe grapes, and leave it to others to go up and possess the land! but should our call be favourably responded to, then we shall 'thank God and take courage,' looking upon this as a renewed manifestation of His loving-kindness to our Zion. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick. 'Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.'"

We would wish to make a number of interesting extracts from letters received from our Colonial brethren, but, as we hope to be allowed space in the *Covenanter* for some of these letters at length in convenient time, we shall not prolong this report meanwhile.

Australia.

With regard to our *Australian Mission,* the annual report of the congregation in Geelong inserted in last issue of *Covenanter* contains about as much information as we could furnish. That report contains the gratifying intelligence that our esteemed missionary, the Rev. Mr. Moore, labours diligently and faithfully, notwithstanding many discouragements; and his spirited little congregation is doing well for the interests of the Church in their midst. It is sad that, although a considerable sum of money is at command for the outfit of a second missionary, and so many fervent appeals have been made both from Australia and from the Church at home for an agent, our brother is still left isolated and alone, and, from lengthened disappointment, has almost ceased to cry "Come over and help us." We would, in faith and in prayer, desire to keep this duty before the licentiates and ministers of the Church, and hope that, when "the harvest truly is plenteous and the labourers few, the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into His harvest." Anyhow, as a present imperative duty, let us not fail to manifest sympathy with the hopeful commencement made in that land. There is need for substantial help. Our brethren are resting under pecuniary liabilities for the Church property recently built, which must be a burden upon them so long as unpaid. The appeals made by Dr. Houston for assistance in this matter have only been responded to by a few of our congregations. We would express the hope that this matter will not be allowed to drop till the Church at home has done more to help our brother and his congregation through with

Geelong Liabilities.

the important undertaking of the erection of church and manse.

Let us ever hear the command of our Lord and Master—"Go ye into all the world, preach the Gospel to every creature." "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

In reference to the Report of the Colonial Mission, the following resolution, proposed by Dr. Houston, was unanimously adopted:— Resolution.

"RESOLVED—That Synod has received with much gratification the intelligence contained in this Report, of the welfare and abundant labours of our beloved Missionaries in the British North American Colonies and Australia—assure these brethren of their affectionate regard and cordial sympathy—express their earnest concern that some of the Licentiates or Ministers of this Church should offer themselves for the mission to the British Colonies—enjoin upon the Commission to use diligence with the view of obtaining the offer of at least one agent for this mission—and recommend to all the members of the Church to manifest a sustained, liberal, and prayerful interest in the Colonial Mission."

XXIII. According to previous arrangement, the remainder of this session was taken up with addresses— Addresses.

On *Spiritual Life*, by Dr. Houston;

On *The Ministry*, by Mr. Douglas;

On *Ministerial Support*, by Mr. M'Donald, of Glasgow, and Mr. Nevin.

Mr. Kerr, of Greenock, being called on by the Moderator, also favoured the Court with a brief address on the last-named subject.

Adjourned with praise and prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 20th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. J. P. Sweeney conducting devotional exercises.

XXIV. With respect to the Aged Ministers' Fund, the Rev. C. K. Toland proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. O'Neill, Elder:— Motion on Aged Ministers' Fund.

"Whereas the adequate support of ministers, laid aside by Divine Providence from the active discharge of the duties of their office, is beyond all question the bounden duty of the Church of Christ;

"And whereas the capitalized sum raised for the Aged Ministers Fund does not yield an annual income capable of supplying more than *three* beneficiaries with the very small annual salary permitted by Synod;

"And whereas the sum now supplied to the beneficiaries is utterly inadequate to their support, even when supplemented by the super-

annuation allowance from the congregations over which they have laboured,

"Resolved, therefore, that the Aged Ministers Fund be put on a level with the great schemes of the Church; that a secretary be appointed, and empowered to issue circulars requiring an annual collection from all our congregations and stations; and that the collection be taken up on the first Sabbath of August, yearly."

The motion was received, and ordered to be recorded in the Minutes, in order that it may be held under consideration till next meeting of Synod.

Reports of Presbyteries.

XXV. Reports of Presbyteries were called for and read, as follows:—

I.—NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Northern.

During the synodical year now closed, the Northern Presbytery has held six meetings—all characterized by brotherly love and mutual confidence.

State of Religion.

Among the people under our care a hopeful measure of peace and of harmonious co-operation in good has been manifested. The claims of Christ upon their worldly means for the maintenance of ordinances at home, and for the diffusion of the Gospel abroad, have been responded to with still greater liberality than in former years. Intemperance, we are happy to report, is not prevailing among them; yet we could wish that they were more distinguished by zeal for the promotion of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

Attendance on the services of the sanctuary is, in some quarters, not satisfactory; yet, on the whole, we think, it is not diminishing. The days of Fasting and of Thanksgiving appointed by Synod have been observed throughout our bounds. The sacrament or our Lords Supper has been administered twice during the year in all our settled congregations, and once in Ringrash. In this latter congregation there have, of late, been promising indications of improvement, and Presbytery cordially commend to Synod their application for aid from the Home Mission funds.

Ringrash.

Presbytery have much satisfaction in reporting that the Head of the Church has graciously favoured our congregation of Drimbolg with an assistant and successor to our aged brother, the Rev. James Smyth, still, we are concerned to state, labouring under long-protracted infirmity. On the 7th of February a unanimous call from that congregation was presented to Mr. Isaac Thompson, A.B., Licentiate. This call was accepted; the good order of the Church in such cases was duly observed; and, on the 28th of last month, Mr. Thompson was ordained to the Gospel ministry, and to the pastorate of Drimbolg, the congregation engaging to pay

Drimbolg.

Ordination.

£110 of annual stipend, to be increased with their increasing ability.

Licence. Mr. Warwick.

On the 22nd April, Mr. Warwick was licensed to preach the everlasting Gospel; and since that time he has been itinerating, with acceptance, in our bounds.

Students.

We have under our care Mr. William Dick, A.M., now undergoing trials for licence, and Mr. Matthew Neill, theological student of the first year. Also, Mr. John Lynd, who has completed his undergraduate course and taken certificate in Arts, with honors in Magee College, Derry, and also attended two Sessions in Theology in same College.

ISAAC THOMPSON, MODERATOR.
WILLIAM TOLAND, CLERK.

II.—SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of S. Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery report that during the past year they have held five meetings, all characterized by the utmost harmony. One of the above meetings was a visitation of the Rathfriland Congregation, which was found to be in a very flourishing state, ministers and people discharging their respective duties with great fidelity.

State of Religion.

The days of Thanksgiving and Humiliation appointed by Synod have been duly observed, and the Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice in all the congregations.

The Annual sermon on Temperance has been preached by the ministers of Presbytery, and the interest in the Temperonce reformation seems to be growing. We have much pleasure in reporting that, during the past year, two settlements have taken place in our bounds—namely, Rev. J. Frazer Hurst, at Loughbrickland, ordained on the 19th December, 1871, and Alexander M'Leod Stavely Lyons, at Newry, ordained on the 12th June, 1872.

The usual supplies of preaching have been given to the stations under care of Presbytery—Dromore, Lisdonnan, and Dublin.

Presbytery nominate Revs. W. S. Ferguson and J. Frazer Hurst as members of Commission for the ensuing year.

Student.

The only Student under the inspection of Presbytery is Mr. William Scott.

HUTCHINSON M'FADDEN, MODERATOR.
GAWIN DOUGLAS, CLERK.

III.—EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of E. Presbytery.

The Eastern Presbytery report, that, since last Synod, they have held six regular and four special meetings. The ordi-

nances have been dispensed and waited on with usual regularity.

Manchester. Shortly after the last meeting of Synod, Presbytery ascertained that the Manchester congregation had been taken charge of by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, with which we have ceased to have ecclesiastical relations; that being so, we have no legal claim on the congregational property, and nothing further to do with the congregation.

Liverpool—call. At their meeting on the 4th October, a call from the Liverpool congregation was offered to Mr. Thompson, and ultimately refused.

Ordination of Dr. Martin. At the request of the "Committee on Foreign Missions," the Presbytery united with the Committee, and the conjoint court, on the 14th November, ordained James Martin, A.M., M.D., to the holy ministry, and gave him special appointment to labour as a missionary on our Jewish and Foreign Missions. Dr. Martin is a member of this Presbytery. By arrangement he is to write twice a year, early enough for his letters to be before Presbytery at its meetings on the first Wednesdays of June and December. His first letter has been received. He writes:—It is with great pleasure that I address you, as I have only good news to tell. His health is at least as good as when at home. The schools at Latakia, &c., prosper.

"The attendance at public worship on the Sabbath increases, and, for some Sabbaths past, since the people went out to live in tents on account of the earthquakes, comparatively large congregations have assembled, including several persons whom the senior brethren would least have expected to see."

Presbytery rejoices that a minister of such attainments has given himself to the service of the Redeemer in this mission, and supplicate for him the blessing of Zion's King.

Call from Killinchy. At their meeting in January, an unanimous call from the congregation of Killinchy was refused by Mr. Lyons.

Ordination at Larne. The congregation of Larne having applied for moderation in a call, it was granted them, and took place on the 16th October. It was unanimous for, and accepted afterwards by, Mr. Moody, who, after having submitted to the usual trials, was, on the 19th March, ordained to the work of the ministry, and to the pastoral charge of Larne congregation. The people are few in number, but liberal and much attached to their minister. May God abundantly bless him and his interesting little flock.

Mr. M'Kee, Student. Presbytery respectfully submit to Synod the application of Mr. M'Kee, a student of theology. In consequence of the

alterations lately made by the supreme Court, in regard to the preparation required for entering the Hall, and length of session, there is yet one class of the curriculum that he has not been able to take, nor has he yet obtained his degree in Arts; he wishes Synod to dispense with that class in his peculiar circumstances, so that he may not be detained from his general examination, purposing to take that class in winter.

Newtownards. A visitation Presbytery was recently held at Newtownards. The state of matters there was, in several respects, unsatisfactory. Presbytery gave such advice as the circumstances seemed to require. A petition from the congregation for aid in its altered circumstances is forwarded to Commission.

Students. Students under our care are Messrs. John M'Kee and Wm. John Maxwell.

THOMAS DICK, MODERATOR.
WILLIAM RUSSELL, CLERK.

IV.—WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of W. Presbytery. The Western Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held six meetings. So far as man can judge, from the attention to ordinances exhibited by the people, the state of religion within their bounds continues to be satisfactory.

State of Religion.

Ordination at Stranorlar. At a meeting on 1st November, the call from Stranorlar was accepted by the Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, A.M., B.D.; and, after submitting the usual trials, he was ordained there on the 29th of the same month. From the unanimity of the people and other circumstances the settlement is regarded as a very happy and hopeful one.

Mulvin seeks separation. Early in September, the Mulvin portion of the Bready congregation petitioned for a disannection. A difficulty was felt for a time in regard to granting this request, arising from the circumstance that Mulvin was paying a portion of the minister's stipend; but, when the Bready people magnanimously came forward and exhibited a subscription list providing fully what would meet the withdrawal of Mulvin's portion of the support—this, after having so recently supplemented their stipend considerably—Presbytery concluded that there remained no reason for withholding compliance longer. Accordingly, on the continued request of the Mulvin people, other parties making no opposition, they were formally disjoined at a meeting held on the 7th of February.

Separation granted.

Memorial from Mulvin. A memorial from Mulvin for this Synod was submitted to Presbytery at the May meeting, and licensed by them. The case of the people as therein presented is commended to the

favourable consideration of Synod, so far as the state of the funds of the Home Mission may permit.

Messrs. Mackeown and Nevin are nominated as members of the Commission of Synod.

J. P. SWEENEY, MODERATOR.
R. NEVIN, CLERK.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA.

Report of N.B. and N.S. Presbytery.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report that nothing of a very unusual character has transpired within their bounds during the past year. Unity of sentiment has pervaded all their meetings. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice in each of the congregations under their care. Once at Littleton, and likewise at Queensville. These and other stations have received such attention as could be given them under existing circumstances. The extreme severity of the weather last winter not only made it difficult to visit the outposts, but sometimes rendered it altogether impossible to carry into effect previous arrangements.

Presbytery report with much thankfulness that the tokens of God's great goodness are continued—that a few have been added to the fellowship of the different congregations and that the people under their inspection appear generally to be steadfast in the faith and adorning their Christian profession.

Need for ministerial aid.

Presbytery feel very much the necessity of having more ministerial aid, and would therefore respectfully renew their application to Synod for one or two additional missionaries. It is known that some of the brethren have written fully to the Clerk of Commission, and also to the Colonial Secretary, on this subject, and it is hoped that another year will not pass without something being done to supply more fully and in a way suited to their present need, those interesting and important stations which have long waited and prayed for a more abundant dispensation of Gospel ordinances.

In conclusion, the members of Presbytery, whilst grateful to the Head of the Church for His manifold mercies bestowed upon them in the days of other years, will seek for grace, that they may be enabled still to live and to labour in their divinely-appointed work, cheered by a good hope that the Lord will continue to bless them—watering plentifully the seed already sown through their instrumentality, and sending in His own good time more labourers into His harvest.

ALEX. M'LEOD STAVELY, MODERATOR.
ROBERT STEWART, CLERK *pro tem.*

Wilmot, N.S., 14th May, 1872.

XXVI. The Northern Presbytery asked the mind of Synod respecting Mr. John Lynd, a Student of Magee College. It was agreed that the case be remitted to the Hall Committee, with instructions to recommend Mr. Lynd to the Presbytery to be taken under trials for licence, if the Committee be satisfied with his theological qualifications, after attending the next session of our Theological Hall. **Mr. Lynd, Student.**

XXVII. In the case brought up by the Eastern Presbytery of Mr. John M'Kee, student, who desired to be taken under general examination in order to licence, although he had not taken a degree in Arts, and who had not studied in one class required by the Plan of Education, inasmuch as the hour for it interfered with the time for other studies at the period of his course when he might otherwise have attended it—it was agreed, in consideration of the special circumstances submitted by him, that Mr. M'Kee should be taken under general examination by the Hall Committee, in order to licence, without being required either to attend the omitted class, or to present a degree in Arts. **Mr. M'Kee, Student.**

XXVIII. Mr. Chancellor read the annual Report of the Home Mission. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. Thomas Dick, seconded by the Rev. W. Russell, and passed unanimously. The Report follows:— **Report of Home Mission.**

HOME MISSION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1872.

This Synod made three new provisional grants last year, amounting to £130 in the year. Two of these have already been called into requisition. On the 29th of November the Rev. Robert M'Farlane was ordained over the congregation of Stranorlar; and, on the 19th of March, the Rev. James R. Moody was ordained at Larne. The full weight of these grants will not come upon the fund until next year. Their immediate effect will be to raise our annual expenditure from £245, at which it stands at present, to about £290. **Home Mission Grants.**

The annual income of the Home Mission, from all sources, does not amount to more than £225. The expenditure is already in excess of the income. The balance alone enables us to meet our present liabilities. Considerably reduced during the past year, this balance will be almost entirely absorbed in meeting the current demands of the forthcoming year. The Synod will perceive that any additional grant at the present time must inevitably land us in debt, and render it impossible to meet the demands of the succeeding year, unless some plan be, at the same time, devised and adopted by which either former grants may be considerably reduced, or the contributions of the Church be proportionately increased. **Expenditure.**

Effect of Annual Grants

The attention of Synod has been repeatedly called to the fact that the grants which are made in connection with this Mission have but seldom had the effect of stimulating congregations to become self-supporting. These congregations have been called upon, in return for the assistance they have been receiving from the Church for so many years, to organise Juvenile Missionary Associations, or in some other way to put forth a strenuous effort, year by year, to increase their contributions to the Ministry and to the public funds of the Church. But, with one or two exceptions, no movement of the kind seems to have been attempted in any of these congregations. Almost every year some of our self-supporting congregations show the natural growth and outcome of a vigorous and irrepressible life, by rising perceptibly on the scale both of Ministerial and of Missionary support. The annual allowances of this mission seem to have, on the other hand, a repressing or paralysing effect. Both Ministers and people seem satisfied to allow things to remain pretty much as they are.

Design of Home Mission Grants.

It is hereby humbly submitted for the consideration of Synod that it is neither right nor possible, in present circumstances, to sanction the continuation of this state of matters. It was never contemplated that these grants should become permanent annuities. Much less was it designed that they should have the effect of chilling and stereotyping the life-power and the giving of congregations. The Church has never committed itself to the maintenance of the Ministry in any particular locality by the means of missionary contributions. These contributions are made with the view of enabling weak congregations, by the aid of a settled ministry, to become in a short time self-supporting and aid-giving congregations. This is the only normal and satisfactory condition for the congregations of our Church. Any plan that has the effect or the tendency of preventing this should be at once abolished. Congregations and Ministers are more deeply injured by the want of sufficiently high aspirations and corresponding efforts than they can be benefitted by any endowments that this Church is able to give them. Besides the grants, which, in the course of a few years, should suffice to enable one class of congregations to struggle into independence and increasing usefulness, become, at length, indispensable to enable another and equally deserving class to enter, with any prospect of success, upon the same hopeful and encouraging struggle. Unless this Synod is prepared deliberately to abandon the work of Church extension, and to refuse applications for assistance from new congregations, however promising, it must at once and effectively deal with

Report of Home Mission.

the question of how best to reduce, gradually, so as ultimately to set free for other applications, the grants that have now been in undiminished existence for such a lengthened period.

If, with such a measure of reduction as seems to be inevitable, this Synod could devise and set on foot some plan by which these congregations might be thoroughly roused to a sense of their duty and privilege in this matter, and be directed and assisted in organizing local agencies for the collection of Missionary funds, and for the promotion of Temperance, we are persuaded that this apparent loss would prove instantly conducive to the revival and advancement of the best interests of congregations, and to the strength and progress of the whole Church.

Ministerial Support.

It is, moreover, submitted to the serious consideration of this Court, whether the time has not arrived for adopting fresh measures by which to give a renewed impulse to the subject of Ministerial Support over the entire Church.

Manses.

In connection with this, and as an almost indispensable auxiliary to it, we would earnestly solicit the attention of Synod to the importance of having a Manse in every congregation. Every year it is becoming more difficult and expensive to secure a suitable Ministerial residence. With the miserably small income which our ministers generally receive, it is simply impossible for them to pay a heavy rent, and it is highly inexpedient and dangerous for them to become personally involved in the purchase of land. The first and most accessible remedy in most cases would be a Manse. In many villages and country districts a valuable property might be secured, in perpetuity, for a comparatively small sum, at the present time. Even weak congregations would willingly join in an enterprise so manifestly tending to their own advantage, if it were fairly set before them; and the effort would develope at once their resources and their self-reliance. And liberal men throughout the neighbourhood and the Church would gladly encourage such local and praiseworthy efforts. If a Manse Committee were appointed to make thorough inquiry into this matter, and to advise and co-operate with Presbyteries and Congregations, it might be found not impracticable to originate, and carry forward to completion, two or three projects of this kind every year. Thus in a short time, and without any very great expenditure, a convenient and suitable house might be secured for the Minister in connection with every place of worship. This would at once set the Minister free from temptations and distractions which directly militate against his proper work, or incapacitate him for its due performance. Moreover, it

would greatly simplify and tend to promote the important and still urgent question of a right Ministerial Support.

Tercentenary of Knox.

XXIX. The Committee on the commemoration of the Tercentenary of John Knox reported as follows:—

"The Committee recommend to the Ministers of Synod—

1. That, on Sabbath, 24th November, the date of the Reformer's death, special discourses should be preached, exhibiting the life-work of the Reformer, and the principles, characteristics, and influence of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, of which he was so distinguished a leader.

2. That, on a week day, about the same time, where it is found practicable and it would appear to be of advantage, public meetings may be held, at which lectures or addresses may be delivered on the same subject."

The adoption of this Report was moved by Mr. Mackeown, seconded by Mr. M'Fadden, and unanimously acceded to by the court.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 20th June, Seven o'clock p.m.

Synod met and resumed with praise and prayer.

Scotch Deputation heard.

XXX. The Rev. J. D. Houston introduced the deputation from the Scottish Synod, when the Rev. J. M'Donald and the Rev. J. Dick successively addressed the court at some length. Mr. Kirkwood, who had been appointed and commissioned, was prevented by pressing engagements from being one of the actual deputation. At the close of the addresses, the Rev. J. Brown proposed the following resolution, which passed, *nem. diss.*—

"This Synod, having heard the very interesting and eloquent addresses of our esteemed brethren, the Rev. John M'Donald and the Rev. James Dick, representatives to our Synod from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, desires to express and record our sincere gratification and delight in the presence of these brethren—our gratitude to them for the instructive and stirring addresses they have delivered to us—and beg to assure them and the Church they represent of our continued sympathy and unchanged attachment to them in the maintenance and defence of our common testimony. Cordially we reciprocate the sentiments of mutual interest and Christian affection which these addresses breathe, and earnestly express the desire and hope that the bonds of union and concord which bind us together may long remain unbroken. In all your works of faith and labours of love, dear brethren, as a Church, we bid you a hearty God speed."

The Moderator, the Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, and Mr. W. J. Galway, Ruling Elder, were appointed a deputation to the next annual meeting of the Scottish Synod.

XXXI. A copy of a letter sent to the Synod in the United

States of America was read. A reply was expected, but had not as yet arrived. It was ordered that the letter now read, and the reply, should it come in time, be published with the Minutes. It was also ordered that, in future, the letter for the American Synod shall be submitted to and sanctioned by the Commission at its meeting in March of each year. Correspondence with American Synod.

XXXII. The following resolution on the subject of Psalmody was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Nevin, and passed unanimously:— Psalmody.

"That, considering the very high and important place that Psalmody occupies in the worship of God, and the power that it has, when properly conducted, of enlisting the finer feelings of our nature with our living voice in the praise of Him who is a Spirit, and who must be worshipped in spirit and in truth; and considering that the negligent and unskilful performance of this duty is not merely contrary to the requirements of God's Word, injurious to His worship, and offensive to Himself, but is the principal, if not the only, occasion for the demand that has arisen of late to have mechanical instruments introduced into the house of God for the purpose of leading and performing in this most spiritual and intellectual part of the Divine worship; therefore it is enjoined on Ministers and Sessions to use their utmost diligence in having the members of the Church frequently instructed and thoroughly trained to take their proper part in the service of song, whether in the family, the fellowship meeting, or the congregation. Moreover, the Commission of Synod is directed to give this subject their earnest consideration, and to bring up an annual Report upon the state of Psalmody in the Church, and the measures that are taken, from year to year, to promote its more skilful and hearty observance."

In accordance with the latter part of the foregoing resolution, the Rev. J. D. Houston was appointed to bring up a Report on the subject next year.

Adjourned with praise and prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 21st June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Rev. W. Russell conducting devotional exercises.

XXXIII. Inasmuch as a re-issue of the Church's Testimony seems a necessity, copies of the last edition being for some time out of print; and, inasmuch as important public changes have taken place, brief as the period has been, since that edition was issued, it was resolved that it should be reprinted, but with adaptation to present circumstances. Professors Dick and Houston, with Rev. J. A. Chancellor and the Clerk of Synod, were appointed a Committee to revise the Historical Part, making such additions and modifications as may appear to be called for by existing circumstances—Mr. Chancellor, *Convener*. This Committee was instructed to report to the Commission of Synod, so that, if practicable, New Edition of Testimony to be issued.

Tracts to be issued.

the mind of Presbyteries and Sessions may be had on any proposed modifications before the next meeting of Synod.

XXXIV. It was proposed by Dr. Houston—That a Committee be appointed to prepare and issue, after they shall have been submitted to the Commission at its meeting in November, Papers on, 1. Family Religion. 2. Fellowship Meetings. 3. The Matter and Manner of the Church's Public Praise. 4. Instrumental Music in Divine Worship.

The Synod unanimously accepted this motion, and appointed Dr. Houston, Messrs. Russell, Chancellor, and Nevin, the Committee for this purpose—Dr. Houston, *Convener.*

Serving on Juries.

XXXV. The Committee on Serving on Juries appointed last year was not prepared to submit a Report. The Committee was re-appointed, with the addition of Dr. Dick, Mr. James Reynolds, and Mr. S. Clugston, and was instructed to have a Report in readiness to be submitted at an early stage of the proceedings of Synod next year.

Petitions for Grants from Home Mission.

XXXVI. Memorials from the congregations of Newtownards, Mulvin, and Ringrash, asking grants from the funds of the Home Mission were read. Satisfactory stipend lists in each case were submitted.

Newtownards sought a grant of £20 for one year.

Rev. G. Douglas moved, seconded by Rev. Thomas Dick—That this amount be given them.

Mr. Mackeown moved as an amendment, seconded by Mr. Nevin—That all three memorials be remitted to the Commission of Synod, with full powers to grant as may be considered proper and right.

The amendment being put to the vote was negatived by a majority of 14 to 12.

Grant of £20 to Newtownards for one year.

The motion was then declared carried, without a second vote.

In the case of *Mulvin*, Mr. Cleland moved, seconded by Mr. Sweeney—That there be a grant made of £35 for the first year, in the event of their obtaining a minister, to take effect from the date of his ordination, diminishing by £5 in each succeeding year.

Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by Rev. J. Hart, moved that the grant be not made.

£35 to Mulvin.

On a vote, Mr. Cleland's motion was carried by 16 to 2.

£30 to Ringrash.

A proposal to grant £30 to *Ringrash*, in the event of a settlement, to be diminished annually by £5, but to be augmented afterwards, if Commission see cause, was agreed to without a vote.

It was agreed that these grants should only take effect, in case the state of the funds will permit; and Presbyteries

are directed to ascertain this by correspondence with the Secretary of the Home Mission, before proceeding to a new settlement.

Manchester.

XXXVII. The Committee appointed last year (Min. XXVII.) in the case of the Manchester congregation reported verbally, and Synod seeing no occasion for its continuance, it was discharged.

XXXVIII. The Report on the Theological Hall was read and unanimously adopted, as follows:—

Report on Theol. Hall.

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL, SESSION XVIII., 1871--72.

Opening.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall report that the Eighteenth Session was opened on Tuesday, 14th November, 1871. Six Students were enrolled—one of the 4th year; two, of the 3rd; one, of the 2nd; and two of the 1st. The Committee examined the young men on the subjects which had been prescribed for intersessional study; and satisfaction was expressed with the answering. The Bursary Essays were required to be given in on or before the 1st of December.

The Committee desired it to be put on record that henceforth they must insist on every Student, at his first entrance to the Hall, bringing a certificate from his Presbytery to show that he has complied with all the provisions in the Plan of Education applying to him up to that period in his curriculum.

The usual opening public lecture was dispensed with, that the time in the evening might be devoted to the services in the ordination of Dr. Martin, missionary designate to Syria; and instead, Dr. Houston delivered an address to Dr. Martin on "The Duties and Encouragements of the Missionary Enterprise."

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Lectures and Examinations

I. SCRIPTURAL EXEGESIS. *Hebrew.—Senior Division*—Read critically Psalms xxiii. and xlv., and Isaiah li.—lix. *Junior Division*—Instructions in the outlines of Hebrew Grammar. Read Psalms i.—iv., and Genesis chap. i.

Greek. Fifteen Critical Lectures on the 1st and 2nd Epistles to the Thessalonians, and on 1st Timothy, i.—iii. Instructions on Pastoral character and work were given in these Lectures and Readings.

II. PASTORAL THEOLOGY. *Five Lectures*—on Homiletics and Views of the Pastoral Work and Spirit—such as, A Devout Ministry—Preaching—Composition and Parts of a Sermon—Expository Preaching, &c.

Twelve Lectures—on the Church and Church Power—

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Church Government—Congregationalism—Prelacy—Presbyterianism—Erastianism, &c.

III. Ecclesiastical History. *Examinations*, in Mosheim, on the 16th and 17th centuries,

Twelve Lectures—on the German, Swiss, and French Reformations—the Reformation in the countries beyond Switzerland and Germany—the History and Suppression of the Reformation in Italy and Spain—with Sketches of the chief Reformers, Luther, Zuingle, Farel, Calvin, &c., and their work, and Views of the Inner History and Controversies of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches.

Two Lectures—on the Early Period of Scottish Protestantism, and the Position and Duties of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

IV. Systematic Theology. In this department there were delivered *fifty-two Lectures*. Of these, *two* were on Gospel Missions—*eight*, were expositions of portions of the two last chapters of Luke's Gospel, and the two first of the Acts of the Apostles—*thirty-three*, on the Prophetical and Priestly Offices of Christ—*five*, on the prominent and distinctive principles of the Reformed Presbyterian Church—and *four*, recapitulatory.

Examinations, on Pearson on Infidelity and Turretin on Divine Providence.

V. Moral Philosophy. Examinations on Wayland's Moral Science,

All the Students prepared Essays and Discourses on prescribed subjects, and were regularly examined on the subjects of lecture.

Bursaries awarded.

VI. Bursaries. The Senior Bursary, for an Essay on "Nations judged as subjects of Moral Law, illustrated by History ancient and modern," and an examination on Crawford's "Doctrine of Holy Scripture respecting the Atonement," was awarded to Mr. William Dick, A.M.

The Junior Bursary, for an Essay on "The Necessity and Importance of Covenant Qualifications in British Rulers," and an examination on "Hetherington's Apologetics of the Christian Faith," was awarded to Mr. W. J. Maxwell; while the Committee considered the Essay and answers of Mr. Matthew Neill as worthy of high commendation.

It was resolved that, in future, no Student shall be permitted to compete twice for either Junior or Senior Bursary. A Student of the second year must elect for himself which of the two he shall compete for.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Close of the Session.

The Session was closed on Tuesday, 12th March. The Professors reported most favourably of the diligence, spirit

and deportment of the Students. One had been unable to make attendance for some weeks, through indisposition. The Professors examined on the subjects of study during the Session. Two Essays were read as specimens of composition. The Committee expressed great satisfaction with the report of the Professors, and also with the proofs of diligence and proficiency exhibited both in the answering and the Essays read. Theological Hall Report.

The Committee resolved that, for the future, each Student shall be required to deliver two pieces *memoriter* in each session; and that, if they be not so delivered, they shall not be sustained.

In the evening the closing public Lecture was delivered by Dr. Houston on "The Work of the Lord—the Spirit and Manner of doing it—and the motives for its performance."

CANDIDATES FOR LICENCE.

Mr. William Dick, having taken a Master's degree in Arts in the Queen's University, and having studied four Sessions in the Theological Hall, was recommended to his Presbytery, to be taken under trials for licence. Candidates for Licence.

An application from Mr. M'Kee, made to the Eastern Presbytery, was brought under the notice of the Committee. It was to the effect that he desired to be relieved from the obligation to seek a degree in Arts, and be taken under general examination in order to licence. The Committee, having looked into the special circumstances of the case, agreed to recommend his request to the favourable consideration of Synod.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES—FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER, 1872.

COMMENCEMENT EXAMINATIONS.—All the Students who attend the Hall during the Session in 1872—3 will, on entrance, be examined on the following subjects:— Subjects for Sudy in 1872.

Holy Scriptures—The Minor Prophets, Hosea, Joel, Amos—marking carefully the chronology and topography—Subjects of the separate prophecies—Characteristics of Style—References to later times, and past fulfilment.

Westminster Confession.—Chaps. xvii.—xxi.

Historical Testimony.—Introduction, and Periods I, II.

Ecclesiastical History.—Century XVI, from the death of Calvin in 1564—The Inner History of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches—Century XVII, History of the Churches in Britain and in the different countries on the Continent of Europe.

Hebrew and Greek Testament.—Students of the first year will be examined on "Tregelles' Heads of Hebrew Grammar":—Students of the second year, on Psalms viii. and xvi.,

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showing their fulfilment in the New Testament:—Students of the third year on Leviticus xvi., xvii., in Hebrew and Septuagint. All the Students will be examined on the first five chapters of the Epistle to the Romans, in Greek.

There will also be an examination on the First Part of Edwards on the Religious Affections.

Students are specially enjoined by the Committee of Superintendence to have the discourses and class exercises prescribed by the Professors in readiness at the opening of the Session.

FUNDS.

Funds.

Statements have been put before the Church, from year to year, in Reports and Circulars, asking for the manifestation of a little more liberality in supporting the Theological Hall by pecuniary contributions. The Account for the past year shows a deficiency of contributions in meeting the expenditure (comparatively small as that is) of fully £7. The collections for this purpose in some of our large congregations, small as these were at the best, have been growing less and less for some years. There would seem to be some misapprehension in these instances as to the importance of sustaining our Theological Hall as it ought to be sustained. It is respectfully submitted that some means should be devised, under the authority of Synod, for having these congregations awakened to a sense of what is right and dutiful in this matter.

Bursary Fund needed.

It is with a feeling of regret that the Committee of Superintendence have come to the conclusion that no subjects for Bursary competition shall be prescribed this year. Other Churches have funds specially appropriated to this purpose. We cannot, for the present at least, offer one or two Bursaries without drawing upon funds that have been donated for other purposes. It is further respectfully submitted that measures be taken by Synod for having this want supplied.

Com. of Sup.

The Committee of Superintendence was re-appointed, without any change of the members from last year.

Time to Open and Close.

The second Tuesday of November was appointed for the opening of the Hall; and the second Tuesday of March, 1873, for the close.

Resolution on Hall.

The following motion was proposed and unanimously agreed to:—

RESOLVED—That, as it appears to this Synod highly desirable that considerably larger funds should be raised throughout the Church for the support of the Theological Hall than are at present forthcoming, and especially that such a sum should be raised as would form a permanent endowment for the Hall, instead of making it dependent as it now is on an annual collection—this matter be committed to the

Committee of Superintendence, with instructions to them to frame and put before the Church a practical measure to secure this object.

Special Collection.

XXXIX. It was proposed and agreed to, That a special collection be made on the first Sabbath of August in the present year, partly to supplement the deficiency in the last collection for the Hall, and partly to supplement the Publication Fund in the prospect of having a new edition of the Testimony published at as early a date as may be found practicable.

XL. The Commission of Synod was appointed consisting of the following members :—

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. D. Houston.	" J. W. Mackeown.
" J. Brown.	" R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
" W. S. Ferguson.	Mr. S. Clugston.
" J. F. Hurst.	" W. J. Galway.
" T. Houston, D.D.	" James Reynolds.
" J. A. Chancellor.	" Thomas Henry.

Report of Irish Mission.

XLI. The Secretary of the Irish Mission read the annual Report. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Mackeown, seconded by Mr. Douglas, and passed, *nem. diss.*. The following is the Report :—

REPORT OF IRISH MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1872.

The Secretary of the Irish Mission has not yet succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for again entering on the work of an Irish Mission.

On consultation with the Secretary of the Home Mission, it appeared to us that we should try to make a little advance towards what we set before us in Dublin, through the Southern Presbytery—that it might be arranged with ministers or licentiates visiting Dublin to remain two Sabbaths, and spend the intervening week in visiting, not confining themselves to the members of this Church there, but visiting, as they might find access to them, poor families, whether Romanists or Protestants. This, being the work of an Irish Mission, would warrant the application of the funds in carrying it on. Much could not be expected immediately from such an arrangement, but it was intended to lead to a fuller knowledge of Dublin, and a clearer discovery of how we might best accomplish the Synod's desire in regard to that city. In corresponding with the Southern Presbytery, however, it was found there were difficulties in the way of making this trial a main one—the inconvenience to ministers of being so long from their homes.

The way did not appear open to us to settle a Pastor there then, and we deemed it at least a doubtful policy to appoint a Reader without having an ordained Minister there, under whose superintendence he would labour.

Report of Irish Mission.

Mr. Chancellor lately preached in Dublin, spent several days there, and made it his business to gather all the knowledge he could that would aid us in judging what measures would be best adapted to advance our cause in the city. His impressions, we learn, are very much in accordance with what we submitted to Synod at last meeting. He would very much desire to make trial of Dublin by giving them an able and devoted Minister, who, in addition to the labours of the pastorate, would take an interest in and do mission work, and have associated with him in that work a well adapted agent. We are agreed in opinion that this course ought to be taken, and, with the concurrence of Synod, we will act conjointly in seeking the attainment of the objects stated above.

The steadfastness and liberality of the few people we have in Dublin lay us under obligation to encourage and sustain them. We trust the time may not be far distant when God shall give to this people a pastor after His own heart to feed them with the bread of knowledge and understanding.

Report on Records of Presbyteries.

XLII. The subjoined report on Records of Presbyteries was presented :—

"The Committee appointed to inspect Presbytery Records report that, so far as they have been able to review them, they appear to be very correctly and carefully kept, and in entire accordance with the law an order of the Church."

"JAMES BROWN, *Convener.*"

Preachers' Appointments.

XLIII. A scale of Preachers' Appointments till November was made out, as follows :—

	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.
Mr. M'Knight	N.	E.	W.	N.	E.
Mr. Warwick	E.	W.	E.	E.	N.

Grants to Missionaries.

XLIV. Owing to the state of the funds of the Colonial Mission, Synod felt in a position to make a grant, this year again, of £20 to the Rev. A. M. Moore; and of £10 to each of the American Colonies, in addition to what they had been all along receiving.

Grants to Theol. Library.

XLV. A grant of £15 was made to the Theological Library, out of the Education Fund ; and Mr. Chancellor was instructed to have a fire insurance effected on the Library.

Final Adjournment.

At 3.30, p m., Mr. Nevin, at the request of the Moderator, engaged in prayer, and adjourned the court till the third Monday of June, 1873.

ATTESTED BY

ROBERT NEVIN,

Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Synodical Officers.

Moderator.

Rev. JAMES DICK, D D., Ballymena.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. James Dick, D.D., Ballymena.

ECCLES. HIST., PAST. THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener*	Mr. James Meharg.
Dr. Hurst.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.

General Treasurer.

Mr. Samuel Clugston, Antrim.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin.	Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener.*	Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. A. Savage.	Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.
COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.
IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.
FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.
THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. R. Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission of Synod.

Commission.

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. D. Houston.	,, J. W. Mackeown.
,, J. Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
,, W. S. Ferguson.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, J. F. Hurst.	,, W. J. Galway.
,, T. Houston, D.D.	,, James Reynolds.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Thomas Henry.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Temperance Association.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

Committees.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.	,, W. Toland.
,, Thomas Dick.	,, G. Douglass.
,, James Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Convener.*

Committees.

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod.

COMMITTEES ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

For 1872.

Rev. J. W. Mackeown, *Convener.* | Rev. T. Cleland.

For 1873.

Rev. H. M'Fadden, *Convener,* | Rev. T. Hart.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTTISH SYNOD.

The Moderator. | Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, A.M., B.D.

Mr. W. J. Galway.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. Brown.
Rev. Prof. Dick.	,, G. Douglass.
,, W. Russell.	,, R. Nevin.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Pro. Houston, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE ON THE TESTIMONY.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Rev. Dr. Houston.
Rev. Dr. Dick.	,, R. Nevin.

COMMITTEE FOR ISSUING TRACTS ON CERTAIN SUBJECTS.

Dr. Houston, *Convener.*	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.	,, R. Nevin.

COMMITTEE ON SERVING ON JURIES.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Rev. R. Nevin.
,, W. Russell.	Mr. J. Reynolds.
,, J. Dick, D.D.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, J. W. Mackeown.	

Synodical Appointments.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

COLLECTION for Home Mission, ...1st Sabbath, October.
,, ,, For. and Jewish, ...1st Sabbath, December.
,, ,, Hall and Synod Fund,....1st Sabbath, February.
,, ,, Colonial Mission, ...1st Sabbath, April.
,, ,, Irish Mission, ...1st Sabbath, June.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 12th Nov., 1872.
Closes Tuesday, 11th March, 1873.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 13th Nov., 1872; and Wednesday, 12th March, 1873.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 28th November, 1872.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 30th January, 1873.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, Monday, 16th June, 1873, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

NORTHERN—As occasion requires.

SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August and November.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA—As occasion requires.

Statistical and Financial Statement of Ministerial Support and Home Mission Scheme.

	Congregations.	Ministers.	Members.	Stipend.	Manse or Travelling Expenses.	Collected, 1872.	Collected, 1871.	Total, 1872	Total, 1871	Supplement. 1872.	Supplement. 1871.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
HELP-SUPPORTING.	Bailliesmill	T. Dick	140	100 0 0	....	7 0 0	2 10 0	107 0 0	102 10 0	....	....
	Ballenon	A. Savage	265	75 0 0	....	3 3 6	2 7 0	78 3 6	77 7 0	....	....
	Ballyclabber	J. D. Houston	150	80 0 0	Manse.	3 6 9½	3 9 6	83 6 9½	83 9 6	....	....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	100 0 0	....	5 6 6	3 12 0	105 6 6	93 12 0	....	....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	280	250 0 0	5 0 0	42 6 0	39 10 0	297 6 0	269 10 0	....	....
	Bready	C. K. Toland	210	120 0 0	4 0 0	4 3 9	7 12 0	128 3 9	111 12 0	....	....
	Convoy	J. W. Mackeown	170	100 0 0	3 0 0	1 10 0	7 15 0	104 10 0	110 15 0	....	....
	Creivagh	G. Douglas	180	100 0 0	....	6 14 0	3 7 6	106 14 0	103 7 6	....	....
	Derrock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	100 0 0	....	5 3 0	5 0 0	105 3 0	105 0 0	....	....
	Drimbolg	I. Thompson	230	110 0 0	....	4 2 0	4 0 0	114 2 0	74 0 0	....	....
	Faughan	J. P. Sweeney	195	70 0 0	....	3 18 7	3 0 0	73 18 7	73 0 0	....	....
	Kellswater	J. Dick	235	100 0 0	....	12 0 0	12 0 0	112 0 0	112 0 0	....	....
	Killinchy	.....	36	45 0 0	....	2 3 6½	3 0 0	47 3 6½	48 0 0	....	....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	160	100 0 0	....	5 4 0	4 13 0	105 4 0	104 13 0	....	....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	250	110 0 0	Manse.	8 0 0	8 0 0	118 0 0	118 0 0	....	....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	100	140 0 0	Manse.	7 0 0	7 0 0	147 0 0	147 0 0	....	....
	Loughbrickland	J. F. Hurst	115	100 0 0	....	2 6 4	2 6 0	102 6 4	82 6 0	....	10 0 0
	Newry	A. M'S Lyons	90	100 0 0	Manse.	2 10 0	2 2 6	102 10 0	82 2 6	....	....
	Newtownards	R. Allen	67	70 0 0	Manse.	2 4 3	2 4 10	72 4 3	102 4 10	....	....
	Newtownlimavady	T. Cleland	244	140 0 0	....	4 11 0	4 0 0	144 11 0	144 0 0	....	....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	240	80 0 0	....	4 14 9	3 12 0	84 14 9	78 12 0	....	....
	Ringrash	.....	40	17 0 0	....	1 5 5	1 2 4	18 5 5	18 2 4	....	....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	94	50 0 0	....	10 0 0	10 10 4	60 0 0	60 10 4	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Ballylane	H. M'Fadden	112	50 0 0	....	2 10 0	2 7 0	52 10 0	52 7 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
	Cloughmills	.....	12	6 0 0	....	2 0 0	1 0 0	8 0 0	7 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Donegal	.....	13	12 0 0	....	3 10 0	2 15 0	15 10 0	14 15 0	3 0 0	6 5 0
	Dromore	.....	28	15 0 0	....	1 4 6	1 3 0	16 4 6	16 3 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dublin	.....	18	21 0 0	....	1 0 0	....	22 0 0	21 0 0	12 0 0	25 0 0
	Fairview	G. Lillie	45	50 0 0	....	2 15 2	2 15 5	52 15 2	52 15 5	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Garvagh	J. Hamilton	100	50 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 0 0	53 0 0	53 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	60	40 0 0	....	4 0 0	3 16 0	44 0 0	43 16 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Larne	J. R. Moody	20	40 0 0	....	1 4 0	1 0 0	41 4 0	21 0 0	16 13 4	10 0 0
	Lisdonnan	.....	9	6 0 0	....	0 10 0	0 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Liverpool	.....	20	80 0 0	....	2 10 0	2 2 0	82 10 0	82 2 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Magherafelt	.....	30	10 10 0	....	2 7 0	2 0 0	12 17 0	12 10 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Mulvin	.....	38	60 0 0	....	3 11 0	3 11 0	63 11 0	18 11 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Stranorlar	R. M'Farlane	80	50 0 0		3 0 0	....	53 0 0	50 0 0	29 3 0	5 0 0

Home Mission Account for year ending 30th June, 1872.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance, 1st July, 1871 ..	£109	19	2	By Ballyclare ..	£25	0	0
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	25	0	0	" Ballylane ..	20	0	0
" " on U. S. Bond ..	6	1	1	" Cloughmills ..	5	0	0
" Annuity bequeathed by Jos. Clarke ..	2	0	0	" Donegal ..	3	0	0
" Baliesmill ..	5	0	0	" Dromore ..	5	0	0
" " Missionary Society ..	2	0	0	" Dublin ..	12	0	0
" Ballenon ..	3	3	6	" Fairview ..	25	0	0
" Ballycabber ...	3	6	9½	" Garvagh ..	25	0	0
" Ballyclare ...	9	1	0	" Grange ...	25	0	0
" " Society Box ...	0	19	0	" Larne ..	16	13	4
" Ballylaggan ...	5	6	6	" Lisdonnan ...	6	0	0
" Ballylane ..	2	10	0	" Liverpool ..	25	0	0
" Belfast ..	7	6	0	" Magherafelt ..	10	0	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society ..	32	14	0	" Mulvin ...	5	0	0
" " —Mrs. Moody's Donation ...	2	0	0	" Stranorlar ..	29	3	0
" " —for a Proclamation ...	0	6	0	" Printing Report ...	3	0	0
" Bready ..	4	3	9	" Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
" Cloughmills ..	0	12	6	" Travelling and Secretary's Expenses ..	3	4	6
" " Mr. Wm. Christie	1	0	0	" Balance on hand, 1st July, 1872	93	4	6
" " Mr. Robt. Christie	0	7	6				
" Convoy ...	1	10	0				
" Cornwallis, N S. ..	3	0	0				
" Creivagh ...	4	14	0				
" " Mr. T. Henry's Donation ...	2	0	0				
" Drimbolg ...	4	2	0				
" Dervock and Ballymoney ..	5	3	0				
" Donegal ..	2	10	0				
" " Miss King's Donation	1	0	0				
" Dromore ...	1	4	6				
" Dublin ..	1	0	0				
" Fairview ..	2	15	2				
" Faughan ..	3	18	7				
" Garvagh ..	3	0	0				
" Grange ..	4	0	0				
" Kellswater ..	11	0	0				
" " Antrim Society Box	0	10	0				
" " Ballymena do. ...	0	10	0				
" Killinchy ...	2	3	6½				
" Kilraughts ...	5	4	0				
" Knockbracken ..	8	0	0				
" Larne ...	1	4	0				
" Lisdonnan ..	0	10	0				
" Loughbrickland ..	2	6	4				
" Liverpool ..	2	10	0				
" Londonderry ..	7	0	0				
" Magherafelt ..	2	7	0				
" Mulvin ..	0	18	0				
" " Missionary Box ..	0	18	0				
" " Aldohill Society ..	0	15	0				
" " Miss Adams's Donation ...	1	0	0				
" Newry ..	2	10	0				
" Newtownards ..	2	4	3				
" Newtownlimavady ...	4	11	0				
" Rathfriland ...	4	14	9				
" Ringrash ..	1	5	5				
" Stranorlar ..	3	0	0				
" St. John Congregation, N.B.	8	0	0				
" Barnesville (N.B.) Juvenile Missionary Society ...	2	10	0				
" Dr. Martin, Latakia ..	4	0	0				
	£337	5	4		£337	5	4

Colonial Mission Account for the Year ending June 30, 1872.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance as per last report	£28	5	3	By Rev. A. M. Moore's Life Policy	£6	2	6
Collections for 1872.				,, Proportion of Travelling Expenses of Commission — November and March meetings	2	4	6
,, Baillesmill	2	10	0	,, Circulars, Postage, and Codes of Discipline	1	0	0
,, Belfast	5	9	7	,, Rev. Wm. Somerville	10	0	0
,, Ballylaggan	3	1	6	,, ,, A. M'L. Stavely	10	0	0
,, Ballymoney & Dervock	6	5	0	,, ,, J. R. Lawson	30	0	0
,, Barnesville, N.B., Missionary Society	2	10	0	,, ,, R. Stewart	30	0	0
,, Ballenon	2	3	6	,, ,, A. M. Moore	20	0	0
,, Ballyclare	1	16	0	,, ,, R. Stewart	10	0	0
,, Ballylane	1	10	0	,, ,, J. R. Lawson	10	0	0
,, Bready	3	1	5	,, ,, A. M'L. Stavely	10	0	0
,, Coleraine	3	4	5	,, ,, W. Somerville	10	0	0
,, Cornwallis, N.S.	2	11	4½	,, Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
,, Creevagh	2	9	10	,, Balance to new Account	20	11	5½
,, Coughmills	0	13	0				
,, Convoy							
,, Drimbolg	3	0	0				
,, Dromore	0	18	3				
,, Donegal	2	0	0				
,, Dublin	0	14	0				
,, Fairview	1	0	8				
,, Faughan	2	2	0				
,, Garvagh	0	18	0				
,, Grange	0	15	0				
,, Kellswater	9	0	0				
,, Killinchy	1	10	0				
,, Kilraughts	4	15	8				
,, Knockbracken (including £1 from Mrs. M'Donald)	8	0	0				
,, Larne	0	16	0				
,, Lisdonnan							
,, Londonderry	8	0	0				
,, Loughbrickland	2	5	0				
,, Liverpool							
,, Mulvin	0	15	6				
,, Magherafelt							
,, Newry	1	15	0				
,, Newtownards	1	10	1				
,, Newtownlimavady	3	0	0				
,, Ratbfriland	4	2	0				
,, Ringrash	1	0	0				
,, Stranorlar							
,, St. John, N.B.	3	0	0				
,, Horton, N.S.							
,, Wilmot ,,							
,, Mr. James Glenn and Family	1	0	0				
,, Belfast Juvenile Missionary Society	14	10	11				
,, Interest on Mr. Henry's donation	25	0	0				
,, Dr. Martin, Latakia	4	0	0				
	£170	18	5½		£170	18	5½

ACCOUNT OF THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION,

Dr. *For the Year Ending June*, 1872. Cr.

To Balance in hand from last year		£120	10	4	By Dr. Martin—Expenses in the months of July, August, and September	£19 0 0
" Interest		4	13	6	" Do.—Expenses at University Exam nations and Graduation	15 0 0
" Congregation of Creevagh—Collection for former year		2	17	3	" Do.—Expenses till his Ordination	7 0 0
" — Broadlane do		3	1	6	" Do.—Rev. Dr. Martin—First half-year's Salary as Missionary to Syria	60 0 0
" — Ballenon do.		2	1	7	" Rev. J. A. Chancellor—as additional allowance to Dr. Martin's Salary	5 0 0
" — Dublin do.		1	0	0	" Rev. Dr. Martin—Second half-year's Salary	60 0 0
" Miss King (Donegal), by Rev. J. A. Chancellor		20	0	0	" For Report in Minutes of Synod	3 0 0
" Congregation of Mulvin—Collection		0	18	8	" Proportion of Expenses of Meeting of Commission in November	1 2 1
" Mrs. Long, Ballybracken, Knockbracken Congregation—Donation		1	10	0	" Do. Meeting in March	1 2 5
" Congregation of Cloughmills—Collection		0	10	0	" Expenses of Members attending a Special Meeting of Committee in September	1 13 5
" — Dromore do.		0	18	0	" Printing Circulars, Postages, Deductions in Bank Cheques	0 13 9
" — Cornwallis, Nova Scotia		0	12	6		
" Mrs. M'Culloch, College Street S., Belfast—Donation		0	10	0		
" Congregation of Kilraughts—Collection and Donations		30	0	0		
" A Friend—Donation—by Rev. R. Nevin		0	10	0		
" Hamilton M'Cleery, Esq.—Donation		2	0	0		
" Mrs. M'Clure, Belfast—Annual Subscription by Mr. D. Musgrave, Knockbracken		1	0	0		
" Robert Henderson, Esq, Belfast — Annual Subscription by Mr. D. Musgrave		1	0	0		
" Congregation of Newry—Collection		1	0	0		
" Garvagh	do.	1	0	0		
" Broadlane	do.	2	18	3		
" Ballyclabber	do.	2	11	5		
" Killinchy	do.	1	2	0		
" Knockbracken	do	5	0	0		
" Baliesmill	do.	2	0	0		
" Dublin	do.	0	12	4		
" Larne	do.	1	0	0		
" Fairview	do.	1	5	6		
" Drimbolg	do.	3	7	6		
" Misses Stevenson's Box, Derry		1	0	0		
" Loughbrickland—Congregation Collection		2	13	0		
" Derry	do.	5	0	0		
" Rathfriland	do.	3	0	6		
" Newtownards	do.	2	0	5		
" Daughter of a Minister		5	0	0		
" Tallyclare Congregation—Collection		2	6	6		
" Creevagh	do.	4	1	0		
" S. M'Donald, Newtownards—Donation		0	1	6		
" Aged Female—Member of College Street S. Congregation—Belfast		0	5	0		
" Faughan Congregation—Collection		4	16	5		
" Rev. Dr. Martin, Syria, Donation		4	0	0		
" Congregation of St. John, N.B., Collection		8	0	0		
" — Barnesville, N. B. do.		2	10	0		
" — Grange do.		0	15	0		
" — Ballylane do.		2	4	3		
" Mr. S. Mogey, Ballymoney—Donation		0	2	6		
" Belfast Congregation—Juvenile Missionary Association		11	1	3		
" From Rev. Dr. Martin—Donation on account of his liberal Outfit		4	0	0		
		£273	7	8		
		173	11	8		
Balance on hand		£99	16	0		£173 11 8

Hall and Synod Fund in Account with the Secretary, 1871-72.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Congregational Collections, viz.:—				By Balance from last year's Account	£0	12	6
Ballies mills	£2	7	6	" Professors' Salaries	95	0	0
Ballenon	2	7	10	" Proportion Travelling Expenses, Commission and Hall Committee	2	4	6
Ballybay	4	0	0	" Circulars, Postages	0	13	3
Ballyclare	2	5	0	" Printing Report in Minutes	3	0	0
Ballylaggan	2	16	6	" Clerk of Synod	10	0	0
Ballylane	2	10	8	" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
Brucesville, N.B.	2	15	6	" Travelling Expenses of Deputation to Scotland	2	13	0
Belfast	6	4	0				
Bready	4	1	3				
Cloughmills	0	16	0				
Coleraine	3	2	9½				
Convoy	1	10	0				
Cornwallis, N.S.							
Dervock & Ballymoney	5	0	0				
Donegal	1	10	0				
Drimbolg	2	7	6				
Dromore	1	1	6				
Dublin	0	15	0				
Fairview	1	0	3				
Faughan	3	2	9				
Garvagh	1	3	0				
Grange	0	17	0				
Horton, N.S.							
Kellswater	8	0	0				
Killinchy	1	0	0				
Kilraughts	5	3	0				
Knockbracken	10	0	0				
Larne	0	15	0				
Lisdonnan	0	12	0				
Liverpool	1	0	0				
Londonderry	7	0	0				
Loughbrickland	2	5	6				
Magherafelt	0	9	0				
Mulvin	0	14	0				
Newry	1	10	0				
Newtownards	1	16	0				
Newtownlimavady	2	0	0				
Rathfriland	3	1	2				
Ringrash	0	19	0				
St. John, N.B.	3	14	3				
Stranorlar							
Wilmot, N.S.							
To Interest on Mr. Morrow's Legacy	2	5	0				
To Donation of Dr. Martin	4	0	0				
To Balance against Fund	7	5	3½				
	£115	3	3		£115	3	3

Audited and found correct,

T. HENRY.
A. GRAY.

Irish Mission Account for the Year ending June, 1872.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance of last year's Account ..	£167	1	7	By Cash for Printing Reports	£3	0	0
" Bequest of Mr. Joseph Clarke ..	1	0	0	" " in aid of Dublin ..	12	0	0
" Cornwallis Collection	2	18	2	" " Grant to Hall & Synod Fund ..	20	0	0
" Interest ..	6	6	10	" Share of Travelling Expenses to the November Commission ..	1	2	1
				" Do. to March Commission ..	1	2	5
				" Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
				" Balance ..	139	2	1
	£177	6	7		£177	6	7

Publication Fund.

To Balance at last statement	£38	8	6½			
" Received for Publications	7	14	6			
" Donation of Mr. James Meharg	3	0	0	—£49	8	0½
By final Printing Book of Discipline—200 copies	6	5	0			
" Paid Mr. Meharg—Debt on previous series of *Covenanter*—By order of Commission of Synod	25	0	0			
" Postage, &c.	0	0	8	—£31	5	8
To Balance to new Account				£17	17	4½

R. NEVIN.

Fund for Outfit of Missionary to Syria.

To Donations and Collections from Ireland ..	£111	13	9½	By Outfit and Passage	£110	0	0
" Remitted by Synod in Scotland ..	25	0	0	" Additional for Passage ..	1	0	0
" Remitted by Dr. Marie ..	10	0	0	" Additional for Books	0	11	6
				" Postage, &c. ..	0	3	3½
				" By Balance on hand	35	0	0
	£146	13	9½		£146	13	9½

Antrim, June 18, 1872.

SAMUEL CLUGSTON, *Treasurer.*

General Financial Statement.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1871	..	£2343	8	0	Paid Grant to Rev. J. A. Smyth, 1 year	.. £30	0 0
Donation of Mr. Thos. Flemming		20	0	0	" " to Rev. Samuel Simms, 1½ year	.. 45	0 0
Interest on Investments	..	153	3	8	" Expenses	.. 0	19 8
					Balance at Credit of this Fund	..2440	12 0
		£2516	11	8		£2516	11 8

MR. HENRY'S DONATION.

Balance at Synod of 1871	...	£1000	0	0	Paid Home Mission	.. £25	0 0
Interest on Investments	..	65	8	0	" Colonial Mission	.. 25	0 0
					" Foreign Mission	.. 15	0 0
					" Expenses	.. 0	8 0
					Balance at credit of this Fund	..1000	0 0
		£1065	8	0		£1065	8 0

BICENTENARY FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1871	..	£481	1	8	Paid Expenses	.. £0	2 6
Interest on Investments	..	31	4	0	Balance at credit of this Fund	..512	3 2
		£512	5	8		£512	5 8

EDUCATION FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1871	..	£483	9	3	Paid Theological Library	.. £15	0 0
Former Grants, re-paid	...	30	0	0	" Bursaries	.. 10	0 0
Interest on Investments	..	31	7	0	" Expenses	.. 0	2 6
					Balance at credit of this Fund	... 519	13 9
		£544	16	3		£544	16 3

AUSTRALIAN MISSION FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1871	..	£207	8	9	Paid Expenses	... £0	1 4
Interest on Investments	..	13	10	0	Balance at credit of this Fund	..220	17 5
		£220	18	9		£220	18 9

SUMMARY.

Present balances of Aged Ministers' Fund,	..£1,440	12	0	For these Sums Synod's Trustees hold following Securities:			
" Mr. Henry's Donation	1,000	0	0	Mortgages on Houses and other Properties ..	£1 200	0	0
" Bicentenary Fund,...	512	3	2	United States 5.20 Bonds of 1865,	2 001	11	5
" Education " ..	519	13	9	Do. do. 1867,	1,046	12	3
" Australian " ..	220	17	5	Pennsylvania Mortgage Bonds,	193	0	0
				United States 5.0 Funded Loan,	206	16	4
				Building Society's Receipt for	30	0	0
				Balance in Treasurer's hand, ..	21	6	4
	£1,693	6	4		£1 693	6	4

Antrim, June 11, 1872.

SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Treasurer.

We have examined this Financial Statement, with the Vouchers and Securities, and find all to be correct.

JAMES REYNOLDS.
JOHN POTTS.

Belfast, 17th June, 1872.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Moderator and Members of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to meet in York, N.Y., on Wednesday, 28th May, 1872:—

DEAR BRETHREN—With very great pleasure we embrace another opportunity to send to you in the Far West our cordial greetings, and to renew the assurance of our affectionate desires for your welfare. It is often a matter of regret to us that, hitherto, we have not been able to send across the Atlantic living messengers, to bear in living words our yearly messages, and to cheer you by their presence. The time, we hope, is coming when the brotherly covenant which binds us together will be rendered closer, and more lovingly binding, by the regular interchanges of affection conveyed by deputies from both sides of the great ocean. In the meantime, by letter, we transmit our sentiments towards you—we express the estimation in which we hold your work for the Master—and we write, that you may know our affairs. It would be impossible for us not to take a deep interest in all that affects you, remembering, as we do, the many strong and tender ties that bind us together. We are one Church, bound by the same holy compact, and pledged to unfurl the same grand old banner for Christ's Crown and Covenant Nor can we forget that many of our best sons, who, for various reasons, have left these shores, are now helping to swell your ranks. Brothers, therefore, we hail you, not merely in the ecclesiastical family, but brothers also in many, *many* instances by the tie of near earthly relationship.

Your last letter, dated June 1st, 1871, was received and read before our Synod. The contents of it refreshed and cheered us not a little, and afforded matter of special thanksgiving unto God. We greatly rejoiced (as the news was conveyed to us) that you, in the gracious providence of God, had been led to renew, in a solemn manner, the Covenants of our fathers. You have thus performed a duty long contemplated by you—a duty regarding which many earnest prayers have been offered up by your sons and daughters. It is peculiarly gratifying that, by the wise guidance of the Spirit of God, you were led so unanimously and so harmoniously to engage in this important work. By the good hand of your God upon you, you have done this praiseworthy deed timeously and well. By doing it you have exhibited to the inhabitants of the great Western Continent the imposing spectacle (never before, we suppose, seen by them) of a band of men of true and pure heart, pledging themselves in holy and sure covenant to Jehovah, and binding themselves by a great oath, sworn with uplifted hand, to seek, not the attainment of any political or worldly object, but the highest end for which the creature exists, namely, the glory of the God of heaven. We feel convinced that blessed and far-reaching results will follow the making of this holy league—a transaction which adds one more to the list of those federal transactions by

which our Church is bound to God, and united also in a close brotherhood.

These covenant renovations—the one in which you have just engaged—the one in which we, some years ago, were honored to engage—and the one which our Scottish brethren contemplate at no distant day—cause us to thank God and take courage. Calling up forcibly to the memory the glorious and honoured past, they show us how our noble-minded and devoted sires put the foot down, and they are at the same time a firm, determined putting down of our own foot. They are a declaration to the world that we still occupy the same ground as witnesses for the whole truth, and that we still tread on ground trodden by fathers of blessed memory—martyrs and confessors who dearly loved the truth, and who, in defence of it, when necessity pressed upon them, loved not their lives unto the death. Such deeds as that which you have done inspire us with a good and joyful hope for the future; *for* they say to us in these days of coldness, and indifference, and insolent disregard of the rights of our Prince,

> "The ancient spirit is not dead,
> Old times, we think, are breathing still."

Would that the people of your great country should, in this transition period of their history, regard with attention the position which Covenanters take and seek amid the mighty and all-embracing truths embodied in their testimony the true answer to the question which is at present agitated, "What constitutes a State?" While the question respecting the amendment of the constitution of the United States is being discussed, it is at least something that you have opportunity at public conventions, and by the press, of exhibiting the great principles which ought to guide men in their civil relations to each other. Though no immediate result may follow your public and faithful advocacy of Christian statesmanship, though suggested scriptural amendments be not accepted by the nation, still, in God's name, you have thrown in the precious leaven which cannot perish, but which will work until one day the political whole be leavened.

Your letter conveys to us the sad intelligence that God has been making breaches in your ranks, calling home to himself the old man who had laboured long and was ripe for his reward; and, also, in His wise, though mysterious dealing, taking away the young man from labours into which he had just entered. To you, thus bereaved, we send words of heartfelt sympathy. May you, as the edge of these trials is keenly felt, be enabled to say devoutly and resignedly—"The will of the Lord be done."

We rejoice that while you tell us of the thinning of your ranks, you are also able to tell us that the Master is raising up, qualifying, and sending forth others to fill the places of those who have fallen. Your Seminary, we are glad to learn, is in a prosperous condition, and is sending forth bands of men to do the work of the Lord. It will be both graceful and praiseworthy for you to com-

memorate the recent act of covenant renovation by erecting a suitable building for the Theological Institute. We wish you God-speed in this good work. May the edifice be worthy of the deed which it will commemorate.

The past year has been to us in Ireland an important one. During it we have seen the accomplishment of an object to which the attention of our Synod has long been directed, and on behalf of which our people have often addressed supplications to the throne of heavenly grace. We at length, in conjunction with the brethren in Scotland, have a missionary in a foreign field. On the 18th of December last, Dr. Martin left our shores for Syria, where, after a somewhat exciting passage, he landed safely on the 10th of January. Dr. Martin, at an early period of his life, devoted himself to the service of the Master in a foreign missionary field, and is a man of piety and zeal. Our Church is entering upon this great work in an enthusiastic manner, and she can already reckon up not a few tokens of the divine favour in connexion with it. Dr. Martin is qualified to act as a medical missionary, as well as to preach the Gospel. He is at present residing with one of your missionaries in Latakia, studying the language, and otherwise preparing for his work, and is much cheered by the kind brotherly attention and wise counsels of all the members of your Mission. We confidently expect that, by entering upon and prosecuting this work, we shall reap a reward which shall show itself in a greater measure of success in our work at home. Reaching out thus into the heathen world will, we doubt not, tend to increase our activity in the nearer field.

You, we rejoice to know, have been entering into more abundant labours in the interesting field of Syria. You have been enabled to send another missionary to take the place of the late lamented Dr. Dodds, and along with him and his wife you have sent an additional female teacher. May the blessing of heaven descend on your labours and upon ours! May they by the great Lord be given a place in that grand and irresistible composition of forces that shall yet, in very deed, give to Christ the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession!

During the past year our vacant congregations have been getting pastors ordained over them, and we expect that, at our next meeting of Synod, quite a number of young ministers will be added to our roll. Our Seminary continues to flourish, and, though the attendance of students during the past session was smaller than on former sessions, still it was encouraging. We have now got a new and very suitable building, in which the classes meet, and our library is annually becoming more valuable.

Among questions of public interest in Great Britain, we refer to only one, and that one is the most important, and, at present, most prominent. We mean the education question, in which every good and true man takes a deep interest. This question is coming up for settlement. Men of very different opinion are loudly clamour-

ing for its speedy settlement, and the Government, which is guided by no higher policy than that of worldly expediency, is greatly puzzled. The few in the land who contend for an out and out Scriptural system do not hope for any measure that will be satisfactory. It is to be feared that the Papists in Ireland and the Secularists in England will have it too much their own way. It is sad to see a nominally Christian nation like this, in deference to the insatiable demands of Popery or Secularism, proposing to banish the Bible from the common schools. The glory will, in a measure, depart from Britain if this is done. May God guide legislators aright!

Finally, beloved brethren, we affectionately commend you unto God, and to the riches of His grace; and we pray that you may be abundantly fitted for doing and bearing all God's holy will concerning you. "Now, the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

Signed on behalf of Synod, J. D. HOUSTON, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

COLERAINE, *25th April*, 1872.

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN—We have enjoyed the pleasure of reading the expressions of your good-will and affection contained in your letter of April 25th, and do most heartily reciprocate your friendship and brotherly love, and assure you of our great confidence in you as Covenanted brethren, and in the Church over which you preside, as faithful to the honour and crown rights of Christ our King. We thank God for you, Brethren, that you continue unto this day, and that you have been enabled to hold fast the Word of Christ's patience.

We are pleased to learn that you have secured a suitable and convenient building for your Seminary, and that its sessions are attended by an encouraging number of young men.

We feel an interest in the great questions of public social order that are agitated in Great Britain; and, believing that discussion will not injure the cause of truth and right, we hope that the result may be favourable to the cause of God and interests of man.

You have already been informed that our Synod, at its meeting last year, engaged with great unanimity in the act of covenanting. The example and direction of Synod have been followed by the larger part of our congregations, who have, with tokens of divine approbation, lifted up their hands in the oath of God. We feel that we are walking in the footsteps of the flock, and that we may expect, as we do hope to receive, covenant blessings.

During the year past large and influential meetings have been held in the interests of the cause of National Reformation, and able discussions of the rights of God and the duty of nations, enjoying

the light of revelation, have been given to the public by means of these conventions and the Press.

Arrangements have been made to issue the *Christian Statesman*, the organ of this cause, as a weekly paper, and in an enlarged form. The numbers, talent, and learning—the earnestness and zeal of the advocates of this reform—have begun to attract the attention of the country, and give us great encouragement to hope for stirring victories in this field.

At our present meeting we have had munificent offers of land and money to build a house for our Theological School, and all over the Church the memorial contributions to this fund are cordial and generous. The Seminary is yielding good fruits, and merits our hearty support. A goodly number of young men of promise are coming forward to the ministry. Sixteen students have attended the late session of the Seminary, and five young men have finished their course, four of whom are now pastors and on the floor of Synod.

You will be interested in learning the present aspects of our Church. There are nine Presbyteries and one hundred and two congregations, twenty-nine of which are vacant; ninety-three ministers, of whom seventy-two are pastors, two are Professors of Theology, two Foreign Missionaries, and seventeen unsettled ministers, some of whom are aged and too feeble to do the work of the ministry.

There have been but two deaths in our ranks. Samuel Sterritt, a respected and useful pastor, was suddenly called to his rest. Joseph A. M'Kee, a licentiate, was removed just on the threshold of active labor. We bow to the will of God, and hear in these bereavements the loving voice of our Father in heaven saying "Be ye also ready."

During the year we have organized seven congregations, and reorganized one that had been for some time without a session, and ordained four young men to the ministry.

Our Foreign Mission begins to bear fruit. Thirty-seven persons, five only of whom were missionaries, celebrated the Supper of the Lord in the Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church of Latakia. This mission continues to receive the willing and generous support of the Church. You are aware that it was reinforced by the addition of Rev. S. R. Galbraith and wife, and Miss Mary E. Dodds, daughter of Dr. R. J. Dodds. We have heard with great satisfaction of the safe arrival of Dr. Martin, and we hope that he may be the honored instrument of realizing your most sanguine expectations.

May God bless our union in the work, and cause our co-operation in that distant land to draw more closely the bands of our brotherly affection and confidence. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect; be of good comfort; be of one mind; live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you." Amen.

Signed, by order of Synod, at York, this 4th day of June, 1872,

WILLIAM MILROY, *Moderator.*

J. R. THOMPSON, *Clerk of Synod.*